

AMSA Student Teaching “Cleaver” Award

General Rules

AMSA Student Teaching “Cleaver” Award: A meat cleaver is resilient and designed to break through soft bones and cartilage. Graduate teaching assistants are encouraged to be “cleavers”, by being resilient in teaching abilities, breaking through to students and enhancing their knowledge. The tough metal and thick blade of a cleaver is unique and more durable compared to other knives. Graduate students are expected to be durable through their own obligations, and above all to create a unique learning experience for students.

Purpose: The AMSA Student Board of Directors would like to recognize one master’s and one PhD student’s excellence in teaching and assisting faculty with meat, animal, or food science courses.

Eligibility:

1. The nominee must have been an MS or PhD graduate student and an active teacher or teaching assistant during the 2020 calendar year.
2. The nominee must have been an AMSA member during the time they were teaching.
3. Previous winners of this award are not eligible to compete again in the same level (MS/PhD)

Judging by committee based on:

1. Ability to motivate and stimulate students.
2. Evidence of interest in the improvement of teaching.
3. enthusiasm and vision for teaching meat, animal or food science.
4. Diversification of activities, such as coaching a judging team, student training and advancement, service to department, college and university.
5. Involvement in extracurricular student-related activities beyond teaching, such as advising and involvement in student organization, outreach, etc.
6. Service to animal agriculture and related industries.

Nomination of awards

1. Any active professional or emeritus member of the association may make a nomination, except members of an award’s selection committee. No member may nominate himself or herself.
2. The award nomination must be submitted by **March 12, 2021**. Nominations received after this date will not be eligible for consideration.

Award nomination requirements

1. Completed documents (listed below) must be submitted by **March 29, 2021**.
2. Three nomination letters
3. Philosophy of Teaching Statement
4. Student résumé or CV
5. Official or unofficial transcript
6. Statement of purpose

Grading Criteria

Nominees for the award will have their applications scored and graded by a committee assigned by the AMSA Student Board of Directors. Committee members will individually review and score each application. Once the committee member has reviewed all applications, they will submit their scores to the committee chair. The committee chair will put applicants in ranking order based upon the cumulative score from each committee member. The winner will be notified, and an award will be presented at the 2021 RMC.

Score Sheet:

Nomination Letters (35 points): Three nomination letters must be submitted in the application. Two out of the three nomination letters must be from students who have taken a course under the direction of the nominee. The other nomination letter must be from a faculty member that the nominee worked directly under, or with while teaching a course. In the nomination letter from the faculty member, a description of the student's role in the class is required.

Statement of Philosophy of Teaching (20 points): A teaching philosophy is a self-reflective statement of your beliefs about teaching and learning. It should also discuss how you put those beliefs into practice by including examples of what you do in the classroom.

Résumé or CV (20 points): The nominee shall also submit a résumé or CV with their application, describing their accomplishments in addition to being a successful teacher.

Transcript (15 points): An official or unofficial transcript shall be submitted in the application. The transcript should reflect the nominee's ability to maintain their studies while achieving a positive learning experience in their classrooms.

Statement of Purpose (10 points): Statement of purpose is a direct representation of the student you are. The statement of purpose should describe who you are, what has influenced your career path so far, your professional interests, and where you plan to go following your degree.