

COSAM Academic Awards Selection Process

- All nominations for awards are submitted through Qualtrics to the COSAM ADAA Office (basic nominee information, including the names/emails of recommendation letter writers, is collected during this phase – letters will be collected later by Department Awards Reps)
 - Any faculty, staff, or student may submit nominations (self-nominations are acceptable)
- Nomination information is distributed to Departmental Awards Representatives for further processing.
- Departmental Awards Reps are responsible for collecting letters of support and uploading completed nomination packages to Box.
 - All departmental selections for Outstanding Junior and Dean's Medalist are submitted to the COSAM ADAA Office via Box (due **Thursday, January 22nd**)
 - All recommendations for GTA, faculty, and international student awards are submitted by the Department Awards Reps to the COSAM ADAA Office via Box (due **Thursday, January 22nd**)
 - All recommendations for the President's Award and Comer Medals are submitted by the Department Awards Reps to the COSAM ADAA Office via Box (due **Thursday, January 22nd**)
- GTA and faculty award nominations are distributed to COSAM Academic Awards Committee members for selection.
- International Student Award nominations are reviewed and selected by the COSAM Dean's Office.

Outstanding Junior Awards

- Each COSAM department/program submits one selection for **Outstanding Junior**, with the following exceptions:
 - DBS selects up to two Outstanding Juniors
 - Biomedical Sciences selects up to two Outstanding Juniors

Senior Awards (Dean's Medal, Comer Medal, President's Award)

- Each COSAM department/program submits one selection for **Dean's Medalist**, with the following exceptions:
 - DBS selects up to two Dean's Medalists
 - Biomedical Sciences selects up to three Dean's Medalists
- Dean's Medalists are automatically considered by college-level awards committees for other Senior awards (i.e. President's Award, Comer Medal, Dean Schneller Award). A department's/program's Dean's Medalist can be selected for other Senior awards in addition to the Dean's Medal. A department/program may also recommend for other Senior awards strong candidates who were not selected for Dean's Medal. It is the responsibility of the Departmental Awards Rep to communicate their wishes regarding Dean's Medalists and other strong candidates to the COSAM ADAA Office. There is no limit to the number of recommendations received from a department/program for other Senior awards.

- COSAM Academic Awards committees make every effort to select awardees from different departments/programs for the following:
 - President's Award (one award annually)
 - Comer Awards (two awards annually – one for Biological Sciences and one for Physical Sciences)

Dean Schneller Award – Honoring a Legacy of Excellence

- Each COSAM department/program recommends up to two candidates for the award (these can be among the Dean's Medalist selections, or in addition to them)
- COSAM Schneller/Comer/Presidents Awards committee will select up to three finalists
- The three finalists will be invited to a small luncheon/meet and greet with the Selection Committee consisting of the COSAM Dean (or Dean's designee), DCB Chair, and a third member appointed by the Dean's Office (different than the COSAM Schneller/Comer/Presidents Awards committee)
- The Selection Committee makes the final selection of one recipient.

Graduate Student Awards

- Faculty, students, and staff may submit nominations for the **COSAM Outstanding GTA Awards**. There is no limit to the number of nominations received from a department/program.
- Faculty, students, and staff may submit nominations for the **COSAM Outstanding International Student Award**. There is no limit to the number of nominations received from a department/program.
- A graduate student may potentially be selected for both the COSAM Outstanding GTA Award and the COSAM Outstanding International Student Award, but these are separate nomination and selection processes.

Faculty Awards

- Faculty, students, and staff may submit nominations for the **COSAM Outstanding Faculty Undergraduate Mentor Award**. There is no limit to the number of nominations received from a department/program.
- A faculty member may potentially be selected for both the COSAM Outstanding Faculty Undergraduate Mentor Award and the **Provost Award for Faculty Excellence in Undergraduate Research Mentoring**, but these are separate nomination and selection processes.
- Faculty, students, and staff may submit nominations for the **COSAM Outstanding Faculty Teacher Award**. There is no limit to the number of nominations received from a department/program.
- A faculty member may potentially be selected for both the COSAM Outstanding Faculty Teacher Award and the **Gerald and Emily Leischuck Endowed Presidential Awards for Excellence in Teaching** and/or the **Alumni Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Award**, but these are separate nomination and selection processes.

University Awards (these are NOT selected by COSAM committees, but by University committees)

- The **Algernon Sydney Sullivan Awards** are awarded to graduating Seniors, selected by the AU Office of Student Affairs, and are not related to the COSAM Academic Awards nomination and selection processes. However, COSAM students have consistently received Algernon Sydney Sullivan Awards over the past several years, and we encourage COSAM faculty and staff to nominate our high-achieving students. A graduating Senior could potentially receive the Algernon Sydney Sullivan award and another COSAM Senior award (i.e. Dean's Medal, Comer Medal, President's Award, Dean Schneller Award).

2026 COSAM Academic Awards Committees Representatives

<i>Department Awards Representatives</i>	
Name	Department
Maggie Han	Dean's Office
Michelle Gibbs	Biological Sciences
Elizabeth Schwartz	Biomedical Sciences
Evert Duin	Chemistry & Biochemistry (UG)
Evangelos Miliordos	Chemistry & Biochemistry (GR)
Stephanie Shepherd	Geosciences
Dmitry Glotov	Mathematics & Statistics (UG)
Yanzhao Cao	Mathematics & Statistics (GR)
Minseo Park	Physics
<i>GTA/Teacher/Mentor Awards Committee</i>	
Name	Department
Maggie Han	Dean's Office
Rebecca Riggs	Biological Sciences
Elizabeth Schwartz	Biomedical Sciences
Evangelos Miliordos	Chemistry & Biochemistry
Marilyn Vogel	Geosciences
Yanzhao Cao	Mathematics & Statistics
Minseo Park	Physics
<i>Schneller/Comer/President's Awards Committee</i>	
Name	Department
Maggie Han	Dean's Office
Paul Cobine	Biological Sciences
Elizabeth Schwartz	Biomedical Sciences
Kyle Willian	Chemistry & Biochemistry
Stephanie Shepherd	Geosciences
Dmitry Glotov	Mathematics & Statistics
Minseo Park	Physics