

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Paul R. Pintrich Outstanding
Dissertation Award

Applications Due
March 1, 2026



Chaired by
Dr. Christopher A. Wolters



Paul R. Pintrich was a Fellow and longstanding and devoted member of APA Division 15. He served in many roles for the division, including terms as its President (2001-2002) and as Editor of *Educational Psychologist* (1995-2000). Throughout his too short but influential career, Paul enthusiastically mentored many students to the successful completion of their dissertation. In addition, he readily guided early-career researchers from around the globe as they initiated their work in educational psychology.

Established and named in his honor, the Division 15 Paul R. Pintrich Outstanding Dissertation Award recognizes excellence in educational psychology doctoral dissertation research that has been completed in the past two years. Consistent with Paul's commitment to diversity and inclusion of multiple perspectives, Division 15 encourages nominations of dissertation work from all areas of educational psychology and from any related area of psychological or educational research. Dissertations that employ diverse methodologies, statistical, or analytic approaches also are encouraged. Information about past award winners is available through [the Division 15 website](#).

Eligibility

To be eligible for this award, individuals must be current members or affiliates of Division 15 and must have completed a dissertation in an area of educational psychology or related field at an accredited college or university within the past two calendar years (note that membership to Division 15 is free for the first year). This year's applicants must have completed their dissertation/earned their doctoral degree between January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2025. No more than three nominations per year may come from a single doctoral program.

Award Description

One Paul R. Pintrich Outstanding Dissertation Award will be given each year. The award includes a \$1,000 cash honorarium, a \$2,500 travel budget to the Annual APA Convention to present their body of research, and a plaque of recognition.

Timeline

The Dissertation Award Committee will examine all eligible applications and select one person to receive the award. Typically, completed applications will be due in February/March and the winner announced at the annual APA Convention later that same year. The following year as part of the Division 15 program at the annual convention, the award will be officially granted, and the winner will give an award address based on their dissertation work. The 2026 Pintrich Dissertation Award address will be held at the 2027 APA Convention.



When & How to Apply

For full consideration, all the nomination/application materials/information described below must be submitted no later than March 1, 2026. Please visit <https://go.osu.edu/Div15-Pintrich-Award> to complete the nomination/application form and submit materials.

1. Using an online form via the above link, information will be gathered about each applicant that includes: name, institution, degree program name, dissertation title, date of dissertation defense/degree completion, chair(s) of dissertation committee, and additional members of dissertation committee.
2. An extended abstract that is typed, 2000-word maximum, double-spaced in APA style. Abstracts should also adhere to [APA guidelines for race and ethnicity](#). With their abstract, applicants may include up to two additional pages for tables and/or figures, and one additional page for a list of references). Please name this file according to the following convention: LastnameFirstinitial_abstract.doc (e.g., PintrichP_abstract.pdf). This document should be submitted as a pdf file (.pdf file extension). The abstract should include information on the following:
 - Significance and/or need for the research
 - Research questions and hypotheses (if the latter is applicable)
 - Methods: (a) participants and procedure; (b) materials; and (c) data analytic approach
 - Main results and conclusions
 - Theoretical, methodological, and/or practical/educational implications of research
3. An autobiography and personal statement (500 words maximum). Name this file according to the following convention: LastnameFirstinitial_statement.pdf (e.g., PintrichP_statement.pdf). Please briefly describe your educational trajectory, salient research experiences, and future research and/or career plans. In addition, please discuss:
 - what inspired you to conduct your dissertation research;
 - what you view as particularly significant strengths and contributions of your dissertation research and why;
 - how your work has acknowledged the essential role of participants and communities in your scholarship; how you have replenished participants and communities that have supported your learning
 - anything else you would like to mention about your personal and/or professional trajectory that you view as relevant to your application for this award
4. A letter of nomination (double-spaced two-page maximum) from a faculty member who is best-positioned to speak about the excellence of the dissertation. In most cases, this faculty member is likely to be your dissertation chair, but need not be if you believe that another faculty member is especially well-positioned to write about your dissertation. The letter should speak to the quality of the dissertation and must be signed by the faculty member. Please name this file according to the following convention: LastnameFirstinitial_facultynomination.pdf (e.g., PintrichP_facultynomination.pdf)
5. Proof of current member or affiliate status in Division 15. It is permissible for a person to join Division 15 as an initial step in preparing a nomination. Please name this file according to the following convention: LastnameFirstinitial_membership.pdf.

Evaluation Criteria

Members of the Division 15 Pintrich Award Committee will consider all materials/information submitted as part of the application package when completing their evaluation and selecting the recipient of this award each year. As a whole, the dissertation of each applicant will be judged along the following dimensions:

- **Significance.** The theoretical and/or practical significance of the dissertation's research objectives and focus should be evident. As well, the dissertation's conclusions should have theoretical and/or practical significance.
- **Quality of Research.** The dissertation should reflect high quality research completed with a high level of methodological rigor.
- **Quality of Writing.** The abstract should be organized and clear. That is, it should address all of the above-mentioned components of the abstract and should be written in a way that is clearly structured and easy to consume.
- **Interpretation.** The conclusions drawn are valid and well grounded. That is, conclusions are clearly grounded in the conceptual and methodological foundation of the research.

