**Rubric 5: Want to Win *Best Graduate Student Award*? Here’s how!**

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| **Characteristic/Quality** | **Exceptional** | **Standard** | **Not Nominated** |
| **Thesis** | ***Initial Role*** | Independently identified the problem to be solved | Selected a problem provided by advisor | Does not work with an advisor/has no clear problem to solve |
| ***Independence*** | Independently finds new problems, and new ways to apply data to different kinds of problems | Works on assigned project independently  | Needs help every step of the way |
| ***Context*** | Independently finds new peer-review papers (of collaborators or talks) relevant to research, and thus expanding research impact | Student reads relevant publications when supplied to them, and can place their research into the given scientific context | Has no idea of relevant publications, nor that an external scientific community might be interested in their work |
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| **Milieu** | ***Classroom & Field*** | Goes beyond syllabus to add new and relevant information and ideas to class | Asks questions; performs well in class | Mediocre to poor performance in class |
| ***Interpersonal*** | Helps other students; tutors/mentors undergraduates or new graduate students  | Well mannered; a good citizen | Source of friction among students, dept. |
| ***Department Or Community*** | Volunteers/Contributes to department; **and** engaged in scientific societies **or** engaged in community |  Volunteers/Contributes to department; **or** engaged in scientific societies **or** engaged in community |  — |