



MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF PLANNING STUDENT AWARDS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What's the benefit of submitting for an award?

Learning how to articulate the value of your work. If you win, impressive addition to your resume. Others? Students – show initiative to faculty. Faculty – recognize outstanding work and bring awareness to program.

What student projects are eligible?

A research paper, manual, plan, app or video.

Projects completed by a single student or a group of students enrolled in a university planning or planning-related program of studies.

Student projects or student papers completed in the previous three years (i.e., May 16, 2022 through May 16, 2025).

A project completed by a group of both graduate and undergraduate students will be considered a graduate student project.

While it is appropriate to submit a project or paper where a faculty member(s) has given guidance, the project or paper should primarily be the work of the student(s).

Who can nominate a project?

A nomination for this award may be submitted by either:

- The chair of a university planning or planning-related program,
- A faculty member of a university planning or planning-related program, or
- The duly elected or appointed Planning Student Organization (PSO) Student Representative of a program.

- If the student(s) worked on a project as part of an internship, the internship supervisor.

If you are a student and believe a project meets the selection criteria, MAP encourages you to speak with a faculty member or your employer.

Who can prepare the award nomination?

Students, faculty, or employers can prepare and submit nominations.

Can a nomination be submitted more than once?

Yes. A project may be submitted for an award more than once. However, if that project wins an award, it may not be submitted again. MAP encourages winners of this award to submit for the APA (National) Student award in December.

Can there be more than one winner?

Yes. Each entry is judged on its own merits, and only against the criteria (see below). This is not a competitive award process and more than award may be granted.

However, jurors are asked to select projects that they consider outstanding. We expect there to be good efforts at all times. Good efforts are not worthy of an award, only applications that are exceptional.

Jurors are advised to not make a selection if none of the projects is considered to be outstanding. Likewise, jurors should not hesitate to select all award submissions if they find them all to be outstanding.

Who reviews the nominations?

A jury of professional planners.

What are the selection criteria?

This award is designed to acknowledge student projects that demonstrate excellence in the following areas:

- ***Innovation***: Originality of concept or appreciable refinement of existing techniques or procedures
- ***Transferability***: Potential application to other locations, projects, or areas of planning interest

- **Quality:** Excellence of thought, analysis, writing, graphics, and character of presentation
- **Implementation:** Effectiveness of the work (proposals have been carried out, show promise of being carried out, or demonstrate an effective implementation technique)
- **Application:** Planning principles have been applied or observed, especially in considering a project's effects on other public objectives

What is the deadline for nominations?

Friday, May 16, 2025 at 11:59 PM.

I can't make the May 16th deadline. When can I submit a nomination for 2026?

Any time after May 16th. Simply stipulate in an email to MAP that you are nominating for 2026. MAP Staff will hold onto it until next year. But remember: we will need to contact you in 2026. If your email, phone number and address are no longer valid, it will be difficult to find you.

What do I need to do to nominate a project?

Follow the instructions to submit an application and all of the required back up material. Good Luck!