

# HOOPES PRIZE

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

***May I nominate myself?***

No. You must be nominated by the faculty member who directed your work. The Hoopes Prize was created to recognize excellence in teaching as well as excellence in undergraduate work. The nomination of a faculty member is a crucial part of your submission.

***Does my entry have to be a senior thesis?***

No. Many applications submitted are senior theses, but you may submit a junior paper, or a similar project that was written or produced under faculty supervision. The Hoopes Prize committee requests that only work of very high quality be submitted.

***Do I have to have two nominators—does that improve my chances?***

No, a single nominator is fine—most entries have one nominator. You might consider having two nominators if your entry is interdisciplinary in nature, if you had two thesis directors, or if your nominator feels that your entry could be strengthened by the co-nomination of a more senior faculty member. If a winning entry has two nominators, the honorarium will be divided equally between them.

***Can I enter a novel, or a collection of poetry or short stories?***

Yes. Creative entries are certainly eligible. If your creative entry is also your senior thesis, the readers' comments would be particularly helpful.

***My senior thesis is not a written piece (it's a film, performance piece, or gallery show). Can I still enter?***

Yes. In the Humanities, entries with a performance aspect or non-traditional medium are eligible. Please bear in mind that if your entry is a film, gallery show or live performance, your nominator or department will need to arrange at least one private screening/viewing/etc. for the Hoopes Prize judges, so that they are not influenced by the reactions or responses. If you are unsure, please contact the Prize Office in advance of the deadline. Members of the committees are drawn from nearly every field of study.

***I have a spectacular GPA, I volunteer in a homeless shelter, and I've already been accepted to the best graduate program on earth, but my thesis was not that great. Does the Hoopes Prize take other factors into account?***

No. In the interest of fairness, the Hoopes Prize judges evaluate only the work as it is submitted (along with the comments of the nominator(s) and thesis readers). Past winners have included senior theses that were not given rave reviews by their departments. Conversely, a slam-dunk *summa* thesis is not guaranteed a Hoopes Prize!

***My thesis isn't due until after the Hoopes Deadline—may I still enter?***

Yes. But if you are unable to submit a complete entry by the deadline because of your department's thesis deadline, you must petition the Director of the Hoopes Prize (by the current deadline date) for permission to submit your thesis for next year's competition.

***My readers' comments won't be available until after the Hoopes Deadline—what should I do?***

Readers' comments are the one portion of your entry that may be submitted after the deadline date. Turn in everything else (your entry and all other nomination materials) by the deadline, and send the readers' comments to the Prize Office as quickly as possible, once they become available. (Some Departments/Concentrations will send them to us directly—please check with your department if unsure.)

***May I revise my thesis in response to the readers' comments and then enter it for the Hoopes?***

No. If your entry is your senior thesis, you should enter it just as you submitted it to your department. You may correct a stray typo here or there, but the substance and meaning of the work should not be changed.

***The form says I have to make three copies of my entry. Do I have to pay for the photocopying?***

No. If your entry is ready in advance, the Prize Office can provide you with a voucher for Gnomon (across from Widener Library on Massachusetts Avenue) photocopying services. They will make three black and white, double-sided copies of your complete entry at no cost to you. Please contact the Prize Office if you have color images that need to be reproduced – special arrangements can be made. You must have your entry delivered to Gnomon by 12 noon on the print deadline specified on the voucher form in order to receive this service. Slides, transparencies and other special services are not included! You may claim any extra copies after the winners are announced.

***My thesis director is not currently on campus (on leave, teaching elsewhere this year, or is not on the Harvard faculty). May I still enter?***

Yes. It is always best to have the person who directed your work nominate you. The nomination forms are available online (at [www.fas.harvard.edu/~secfas/](http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~secfas/) in the “Student Prizes” section) and a faculty member who is not currently on campus may use the Adobe .pdf version of the form, fill it out, and mail or fax it to you for submission with your entry.

***What if my nominator is out of town on Hoopes deadline day, and I can't get my nomination form from him/her?***

You are responsible for ensuring that all application materials are complete and in hand, to be submitted by 5:00 on the day of the deadline. There are hundreds of applications, and it is not possible to make exceptions for those who didn't complete the form in time, or who misread the deadline.

This document is provided simply as a sampling of some commonly heard concerns. If you have other questions or concerns about your eligibility, or about any other aspect of the Hoopes Prize, please feel free to contact the Prize Office at 495-4780, or by email to [fas-prizes@harvard.edu](mailto:fas-prizes@harvard.edu). We will make every effort to answer questions promptly and fairly.

***Thank you, and good luck!***