Cornerstone Awards Facts

The term Cornerstone Awards refers to all of the awards presented to individual students at the Cornerstone Awards Banquet. The recipients of the Senior Medallion and the finalists for the Bryan and Freeman Awards are recognized at the Cornerstone Awards banquet, but receive their awards at the Senior Excellence Luncheon, which is held the Friday of Commencement weekend in May, and they are able to bring 4 guests.

The Named Awards (Lippitt, Duncan, Duffy, Teague, Freeman and Bryan) require finalists to interview, and one recipient is named at the corresponding banquet. The recipient also receives a scholarship/stipend, with the exception of Bryan – that recipient receives an engraved clock – and the Duffy Award, which only receives an engraved plaque.

The Excellence in Engagement, Distinguished Engagement, and Senior Medallion Awards go to multiple recipients. In 2017 there were 31 Excellence in Engagement, 44 Distinguished Engagement, and 26 Senior Medallion recipients. The Excellence in Engagement and Distinguished Engagement awards are determined by a committee review, the Senior Medallion Award requires an interview of all finalists.

- These awards are structured in such a way that as a student grows in their engagement at UNCW they can possibly earn two, or maybe even all three awards (i.e., Excellence in Engagement as a Junior and Distinguished Engagement as a Senior OR Excellence in Engagement as a Sophomore, Distinguished Engagement as a Junior, and Senior Medallion as a Senior).
- A student cannot receive more than one of these awards the same year. So if they are a Junior, they can only receive the Excellence in Engagement OR Distinguished Engagement Award and if they are a Senior they can only receive the Distinguished Engagement OR Senior Medallion Award.

The GPA requirement for each award varies: *we go by the exact GPA listed in Banner and do NOT round up*

- 3.5 = The Teague Award
- 3.0 = Lippitt, Duncan, UNCW Laureate, Bryan, and Senior Medallion
- 2.75 = Excellence in Engagement and Distinguished Engagement
- 2.67 = Duffy Sustainability and Freeman

When determining which award(s) to nominate a student for, begin by asking “what class year is the student?” as well as “what awards (if any) did they receive last year?” This will determine their eligibility:

First Year = Lippitt, Duffy
Sophomore = Excellence in Engagement, Duncan, UNCW Laureate, Duffy
Junior = Excellence in Engagement, Distinguished Engagement, Duncan, UNCW Laureate, Teague, Duffy
Senior = Distinguished Engagement, Senior Medallion, Bryan, Freeman, Duffy

Students may be nominated for, and receive, multiple awards. This can occur the same year, or throughout their time here at UNCW. However, they can only receive each award ONCE. For example:

- If a student received the Excellence in Engagement Award as a Sophomore, they are not eligible for the award as a Junior. However, they would be eligible for the Distinguished Engagement Award as a Junior.
- A student can be nominated for, and receive, both the Excellence in Engagement Award and the Duncan Award as a Sophomore.
- A student can be nominated for both Excellence in Engagement and Distinguished Engagement as a Junior OR both Distinguished Engagement and Senior Medallion as a Senior. However, they cannot receive both. If both committees determine that a student is worthy of the awards, the more prestigious of the two awards will be granted (i.e. Distinguished Engagement over Excellence in Engagement, and Senior Medallion over Distinguished Engagement).