

Valedictorian Selection Committee 2016 Terms of Reference

Purpose

To select the nominee that most exemplifies the spirit of McMaster while demonstrating academic achievement, exceptional leadership and communication skills to represent the graduating class of 2016.

Committee Membership

There will be two selection committees, one for each convocation ceremony:

- Nov. 17 AM Ceremony Faculties: Business, Humanities, Social Sciences
- Nov. 17 PM Ceremony Faculty: Health Sciences
- Nov. 18 AM Ceremony Faculties: Engineering, Science

Selection Committees are comprised of both faculty and students from the following area of campus:

- 2-4 Associate Deans (Graduate) from the relevant set of Faculties, or designates
- 1 Faculty member from each of the relevant faculties appointed by the Associate Vice-President and Dean (Graduate Studies) in consultation with the appropriate Faculty Deans.
- 1 Graduate student from each of the relevant faculties appointed by the Graduate Student Association.
- The MSU Vice President Education, or designate.

NOTE: SELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO NOMINATE STUDENTS FOR VALEDICTORIAN

Timeline Overview

1. Valedictorian nomination period opens (August 15, 2016)
2. Nomination period closes (September 29, 2016)
3. Nomination review period (October 3 – 11, 2016)
4. Committee member rankings due by email to Graduate School (October 11, 2016)
5. Top candidates present Valedictorian Address to selection committee (October 18 and 19, 2016)
6. Valedictorian names announced (November 4, 2016)
7. Fall Convocation (November 17 - 18, 2016)

Thursday, September 29 th	Nomination Deadline
Monday, October 3 rd	Nominee packages emailed to committee members
Tuesday, October 11 th	Committee members to submit ranking and identify nominees to present speech
October 12 th & 13 th Locations TBD	Potential committee meeting to discuss nominations
Monday, October 17 th 10:00 – 11:30pm GH/212B	Science, and Engineering Nominee presentations
Wednesday, October 19 th 10:00 – 11:30am GH/212B	Social Science, Humanities, and Business Nominee presentations
Wednesday, October 19 th 1:00 – 2:30pm GH 212	Health Science Nominee presentations

Assessment Procedure

The Selection Committee will focus on the following three areas:

1. **Academic Achievements:** High academic achievement is required. Academic achievement includes both performance in any undergraduate or graduate-level courses and evidence of potential and demonstrated excellence in research

2. **Leadership:** Potential and demonstrated leadership is defines according to the same criteria as those set out by the Tri-Councils, which includes, but is not limited to:

Personal achievement:

- Professional involvement in dance, arts, music, etc.;
- Significant artistic achievement;
- Recognized athletic achievement, especially in a leadership role;
- Entrepreneurial achievement (startup company);
- and/or foreign travel and study.

Involvement in academic life:

- Mentoring/ teaching;
- Supervisory experience;
- Involvement in student government and in the university community, including committees, teams, Senate, boards, ethics committees, etc.;
- Project management;
- Roles in professional societies; and/or organization of conferences and meetings.

Volunteerism/ community outreach:

- Community involvement in charity or not-for-profit organizations;
- Civic engagement;
- Parliamentary page positions and internships;
- Political activity;
- and/or elected positions.

3. **Communication:** Candidates selected from nominations based on Academic Achievement and Leadership will be invited to an interview with the appropriate selection committee. During this interview, nominees will be required to present the speech they would give should they be selected as the Valedictorian (speeches are to be no longer than a maximum of 5 minutes), and the committee may ask additional questions.

Committee Resources

Valedictorian Nomination Form and Guidelines <http://graduate.mcmaster.ca/graduate-student-life/academic/valedictorian.html>