

GUIDELINES FOR THE 2024 ATENEO SOCIO-CIVIC ENGAGEMENT FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (ASCEND) AWARDS

The Ateneo Socio-Civic Engagement for National Development (ASCEND) Awards aims to honor undergraduate, senior, and graduate students for projects and research work outputs that demonstrate mastery of subject matter and the capacity for synthetic thinking, while engaging the larger community outside the Ateneo in contributing to national development.

Projects are development interventions that have been implemented with observable impact. Research work outputs are those that contribute to knowledge creation with the potential for social impact.

It is understood that all projects and research work outputs described herein are those that have been accomplished through *onsite* and/or *online* engagements with concerned communities and/ or institutions.

Criteria for Eligibility

To be eligible for the awards, projects and research work outputs (research papers, theses or dissertations) of students—whether working individually, in pairs or in groups—should involve community engagement and/or address important sustainable development and nation-building concerns. Moreover, they should have been done as part of the requirements of a credit-bearing course within the period of June 2023 to May 2024.

Criteria for Selection

1. **Degree of Engagement** – The project or research work output involves working to make a difference for the well-being of communities by actively engaging the world outside of the Ateneo. This includes one or both of the following:
 - Engagement with concerned civil society, government and/or business organizations with clear potential for advancing human development goals in the Philippine context
 - Engagement with a particular marginalized community (or communities) that can benefit significantly from the concerned project or research work
2. **Agenda for National Development** – The project or research work output addresses an important national concern or problem (especially in relation to the strategic thrusts of the Ateneo) by contributing to the promotion of one or more of the following:
 - Inclusive, empowering and sustainable economic development
 - Inclusive, empowering and sustainable development of political institutions (defined broadly as rules, processes, norms and governance mechanisms)
 - Inclusive, empowering and sustainable communities and cultures

3. **Mastery of Subject Matter and Capacity for Synthetic Thinking** – The project or research work output demonstrates mastery of the relevant course subject matter as well as the capacity for synthetic thinking on the part of the student/s. This is manifested by the following:
 - for undergraduate and senior students, a final grade of at least B (3.0) for the project or research work output
 - for graduate students, a final grade of at least A- for the project or research work output with a strong potential for publication
4. **Observable Impact** – The results of the project or research work (in terms of actions, data, analysis, conclusions and recommendations) are shared with the concerned communities and/or organizations with the consequent validation, adoption and/or continuation of these project or research work results.

Award Categories

1. ASCEND Excellence Award will be conferred on deserving projects and research work outputs under the following categories:
 - a. Undergraduate category (undergraduate requirement)
 - Excellence for Research
 - Excellence for Project
 - b. Seniors category (senior thesis)
 - Excellence for Research
 - Excellence for Project
 - c. Graduate category
 - Excellence for Research
 - Excellence for Project

Submission Process

1. Any faculty member of the Higher Education - Undergraduate and Graduate Community may nominate up to three (3) projects and/or research work outputs for the 2024 ASCEND Awards.
2. The *2024 ASCEND Awards Nomination Form* will be made available for everyone by the Office of the Assistant Vice President for Student Activities and Leadership Formation (OAVPSALF).
3. All duly accomplished nomination forms are to be submitted via email to the 2024 ASCEND Awards committee via servicelearning@ateneo.edu. The deadline for the online submission of nominations is on **Wednesday, 17 April 2024**.
4. Upon submission of a nomination, the 2024 ASCEND Awards Secretariat will acknowledge receiving this. The Secretariat will also inform the concerned nominee(s) of the nomination and later request from them further requirements if necessary to complete the nomination process.
5. For any questions or concerns you may have, please email the 2024 ASCEND Awards Committee at servicelearning@ateneo.edu.

Announcement of Awardees

1. Decisions with regard to the conferment of 2024 ASCEND awards will be made by the 2024 ASCEND Awards Committee.
2. 2024 ASCEND awardees will be announced and given recognition as part of the ***2024 Paghahandog*** program.