

2012 Swing Out Awards Application Questions

GENERAL INFORMATION

All organizations must provide the following information, in order to apply for a Swing Out Award. The information provided in this section will not be evaluated/scored.

Name of Organization

Name, Organization Title, Email Address, Phone Number, and UTEID for TWO authorized representatives from the organization

EIN Number

Please state the mission or purpose of your organization. (250 words)

How do your organization's members maintain 'active' member status? (250 words)

Additionally, organizations must provide 3-5 pictures through the online application that may be used at the Evening of the Stars event, should the organization be selected as a finalist.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

All organizations will answer 6 general questions, regardless of what category for which you are applying.

1. Please describe the most successful event/program(s) your organization has hosted (including co-sponsored events, if applicable) this past year (since March 1, 2011). Why do you consider these events to be the most successful? (400 words)
2. How are new leaders in your organization chosen, and what process is used to facilitate those leadership transitions? In addition, describe what various opportunities of leadership development are offered to upcoming leaders. (400 words)
3. What internal programs/services does your organization offer to encourage current members to continue their involvement, and what efforts do you use to keep your membership retention high? (400 words)
4. What impact has your organization had on the UT Austin community and/or the community beyond UT Austin? (300 words)
5. What process does your organization have to set goals, and who is involved in the process? What goals did your organization set for the previous year (since March 1, 2011), and what active steps have been taken since to achieve those goals? Please include which goals have already been met. (400 words)
6. What are some growth areas your organization could improve upon for the upcoming year, based on experiences from this past year (since March 1, 2011)? (300 words)

PRIMARY CATEGORY QUESTIONS

Each organization must apply for only **ONE** primary category and answer all the questions for that category. *All Primary Category questions have a word count limit of 400 words.*

Academic/Departmental

1. Describe why your organization chose to apply for the academic/departmental category.
2. What is the most important academic or departmental contribution your organization has made this year (since March 1, 2011)?
3. What is the greatest challenge currently facing your academic or departmental community and what steps has your organization taken to address it?

Artistic

1. Describe why your organization chose to apply for the artistic category.
2. How does your organization enhance the artistic skills/abilities of its members?
3. What does your organization do to showcase its creativity?

Cultural

1. Describe why your organization chose to apply for the cultural category.
2. How does your organization promote awareness of and educate the UT Austin community about the culture(s) that your organization represents?
3. Describe any differences in your approach to promoting cultural appreciation when targeting those who are familiar with your culture and those who are not.

Political/Activist

1. Describe why your organization chose to apply for the political/activist category.
2. What effective method(s) has your organization utilized to educate others about the issues that are most important to your organization?
3. What does your organization do to advocate for the cause(s) it represents?

Professional

1. Describe why your organization chose to apply for the professional category.
2. How does your organization encourage networking with professionals in your field?
3. What professional development opportunities do your members receive from your organization that contribute to their success after graduation?

Recreational

1. Describe why your organization chose to apply for the recreational category.
2. How does your organization define 'recreation' and how does your organization promote it?
3. What do your members gain from the recreational outlet(s) your organization provides?

Service

1. Describe why your organization chose to apply for the service category.
2. How does your organization define service, and through this definition, how does your organization impact its members, the UT Austin community, and the greater Austin community?
3. Which of your organization's programs has the most significant impact and why?

Social

1. Describe why your organization chose to apply for the social category.
2. What does your organization do to promote camaraderie among members?
3. What does your organization do to promote social unity on the UT Austin campus?

Spirit

1. Describe why your organization chose to apply for the spirit category.
2. On a regular basis, how does your organization bring spirit to the UT Austin campus?
3. Where is UT Austin most lacking in spirit and what has your organization done to improve UT Austin spirit on campus?

SPECIAL CATEGORIES

Organizations may apply for as many special categories as they wish by answering the questions for each category. *All Primary Category questions have a word count limit of 500 words.*

Best New

To be eligible for the Best New award, an organization must have been formed in the following semesters: spring 2010, fall 2010, spring 2011, or fall 2011.

1. What obstacles did your organization's founding members and officers encounter during its early development and how were these obstacles overcome?
2. What has your organization brought to The University of Texas at Austin that did not exist before?

Best Graduate Organization

***To be eligible for the Best Graduate award, an organization must have 75% of their active members to be graduate students ***

1. In what ways has your organization made an impact on the graduate student community? Please describe at least one event/program that has helped your organization make this impact.
2. What is the most difficult challenge your organization has had to face in the past year (since March 1, 2011)?

Most Improved

1. In which area did your organization need the most improvement and how was this growth accomplished?
2. How have the changes made to your organization helped it to better fulfill its goals?

Best Organizational Ethics Award

1. What ethical challenges has your organization faced, and how has the organization overcome these challenges?
2. What measures are you taking to ensure each member displays integrity?
3. What are your initiatives that promote ethical standards?

Outstanding Advisor

*Please upload up to **TWO (2) photos** of your advisor to be used at the Evening of the Stars event, in the case that your organization is identified as a finalist in this category. (can be individual photo or a group photo with the advisor included)*

1. In what ways has your advisor assisted your organization?
2. What qualities does your advisor bring to your group that would be missing without him/her?

Best Safety Program

1. Please describe the safety and risk issues affecting your organization and the steps you have taken to address them (including educational, **cultural**, organizational, and structural components).
2. Which event(s) conducted in the past year (since March 1, 2011) were the most effective in promoting awareness and educating members of your organization and/or the UT Austin community about risk management and safety issues and why?

Most Outstanding Organization

In order to be considered for the Most Outstanding Organization award, an organization must win their primary category award. All organizations that win a primary category award will automatically be considered for the Most Outstanding Organization award; organizations do not have to apply for the award.