

The Robert E. Thomas Merit Award

General Requirements

- Applicant must be a senior graduating in the same year that the application is submitted.
- Applicant must be graduating with a bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences from California State University, Chico. Students enrolling as of Fall 2007 must have an option in Cellular and Molecular Biology.
- Three letters of recommendation from CSU, Chico science professors.
- One page essay describing the applicant's time spent at CSU, Chico. Include pertinent information such as affiliations, volunteer work, reason for chosen degree, career goals, and plans for the near future.
- The funds will be distributed to the recipient upon matriculation to a graduate program that is science-based. The applicant must apply for the monetary award during the first year of matriculation in a graduate program. Notice and request for the award should be made to the Department of Biology.
- Applicant must submit unofficial transcripts from all schools used to prove fulfillment of the requirements.

Course Requirements

- If enrolling after Fall 2007, students must meet the course requirements for the Cell & Molecular option as defined in the 2007-2009 course catalog.
- If enrolled before Fall 2007, students must complete 15 upper-division course units from the Cell & Molecular option list as defined in the 2007-2009 course catalog.

Committee of judges

- The committee is made up of no less than four and no more than six faculty.
- Members will be invited to participate on the committee by the biology chair based on their teaching assignments, with members coming from those tenure track faculty teaching upper division classes associated with the cellular and molecular biology option, and including instructors of genetics and organic chemistry. Dr. Robert Thomas will be a non-voting member of the committee.
- The committee will select a chair from its participating members.

Judging Applicants

- All courses are judged on a 4.0 grading scale (A=4.0, B=3.0, etc.). The points for each class will be determined by multiplying the letter grade value by the number of points the class is worth. (letter grade value) X (points allocated to area)
- All required courses in biology, physics, chemistry, and math will be counted with no class being counted more than once.
- All lower division classes are worth 1.5 points.

- All upper division classes are worth the units that are received by completing the course on the unofficial transcript. This includes science electives counted towards upper division requirements
- Grades from courses that have been repeated with or without forgiveness will be averaged to determine a final score.
- The most competitive candidates will be interviewed by the committee of judges to determine the award recipient

Judging Letters of Recommendation

- **The members of the judging committee will assign a letter grade to each recommendation and the grades shall be averaged.**

Judging Essays

- The members of the judging committee will assign a letter grade to the applicant's essay based on its description of the student's commitment to success, obstacles, affiliations, volunteer work, reason for chosen degree, career goals, and future plans.
- The grades given by each judge will be averaged.