



## Frequently Asked Questions

### How does CYOS work?

The CYOS Committee works year-round to highlight the stories of those current UNH students on either the Durham or Manchester campuses who have truly taken command of their education. We start with nominations from faculty, staff and community members and then select 10 students as this year's CYOS award recipients. Committee members interview the 10 students and work with them to write their stories — which are then turned into a traveling display, and shared online at [www.unh.edu/mub/create-your-own-story](http://www.unh.edu/mub/create-your-own-story). We ask the students to create a short video detailing their UNH experiences. Pre-pandemic, the videos and posters had been shared at a luncheon in the spring, which students, their faculty/staff mentors and their families or friends attend. To adhere to COVID-19 guidelines, we have shifted to an online celebration, hosting a video compilation that features poster images, student videos, and mentors sharing their thoughts on these deserving students.

### What types of students get a CYOS award?

The short answer is: *every type of student*. CYOS awards are given to students who not only take pride in their UNH experiences and education, but also serve as role models to fellow Wildcats. They might be campus leaders whose names are familiar to many of you, but they are also those students who are quietly making a difference and, without much fanfare, leading the way for others. These awards are a great place to highlight those students who might not necessarily always be in the spotlight, but who are deserving of recognition. The committee takes into account students whose stories have been highlighted in UNH media repeatedly, and may instead choose a student whose story has yet to be told. While these awards are not based solely on academic achievement, it is an important part of any successful student story at UNH. Students being nominated should be well-rounded, contributing members of the UNH community, both inside and outside the classroom. While many of our past recipients have been given the award in their senior year, a CYOS award is open to any student who is an undergraduate in good academic standing, either in Durham or at UNH Manchester.

### I want to nominate a student, but I'm not sure I know enough about them—what should I do?

You may feel you know *some* of a student's story but not their entire life story. We recognize this and welcome your nomination with this understanding. We also encourage you seek out a peer to submit a joint nomination.

## What are some things I should be thinking about when I'm nominating a student?

We all work with so many great students, but often there are some who stand out above the others, perhaps because they are a unique contributor to the greater university community, or they've overcome great challenges in their pursuit of an education. Some questions to consider as you are making your nomination are:

- What unique contributions have they made to the university community? Has this student created a change at UNH?
- Have they taken an innovative approach to their education — if so, how?
- How have they made the most of their time here/How have they created their own "UNH story?"
- Tell us a little bit about this student's personality, and how it fits into their story.
- Are there any unique challenges or barriers your students has had to overcome?
- What makes this student an inspiring person to know? We know there are a lot of great Wildcats out there— in your opinion, why does this student stand out to you among others?

## How do I submit a video nomination?

Video nominations will be accepted this year as a way to nominate your student. To submit your video recommendation:

- Make sure to share why your student fits the criteria for this award, but please limit your video nomination to **5 minutes in length or less**.
- Record your video using your computer or capable cell phone in "landscape" orientation (how it looks on your computer; if using your cell phone, turn your phone on its side to record).
- Upload your video to media.unh.edu (for a quick video guide on how to do this, watch here: <https://unhcaps.info/cyosvideonomuploadinfo>) as an unlisted video and share the link via your nomination form or by email to [cyos.nominations@unh.edu](mailto:cyos.nominations@unh.edu).

## I'd love to talk to someone on the committee before I make my nomination — who can I reach out to?

We're available to talk with you about this process. Feel free to reach out to the committee via email at [cyos.nominations@unh.edu](mailto:cyos.nominations@unh.edu) or by phone at 862-0317.