



## 2017 SWACJ GRADUATE STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION

Interested graduate students are encouraged to submit an **original research paper** on a topic both relevant and current to criminal justice. Submissions will be judged on: 1) the student's ability to synthesize research relevant to their topic; 2) the student's ability to justify the proposed study; 3) the student's ability to develop an appropriate research design; 4) the student's ability to draw conclusions about their outcomes based on current research; and 5) the student's ability to write effectively.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Graduate students enrolled for the fall 2017 semester in a university or college within the Southwest Region.

**AWARDS:** The authors of the top three submissions could be awarded \$250 (1<sup>st</sup> place), \$150 (2<sup>nd</sup> place), or \$100 (3<sup>rd</sup> place). Any prizes may be awarded or withheld at the judges' discretion.

**JUDGES:** Judges must be active within SWACJ and will be selected from the updated membership list. Judges may choose to not award any or all of the prizes available depending on the number of entrants and the quality of the papers submitted.

### ENTRY RULES AND REGULATIONS:

1. Student(s) must author the paper; no faculty/student joint papers will be considered (although papers co-authored by students will be eligible).
2. The paper must be an **original work**; it may be especially prepared for the 2017 SWACJ annual meeting, a revision of a paper prepared for coursework at the student's home university or college, or a truncated version of the student's thesis/dissertation proposal.
3. Submissions must be submitted electronically to Dr. Michael Cavanaugh at [cavanaughm@uhd.edu](mailto:cavanaughm@uhd.edu), and the submission should be accompanied by a cover sheet affirming that the submission has been reviewed for quality by faculty at the student's home university or college.
4. The cover letter must specify that the paper is to be entered in the graduate student competition.
5. To be considered for competition, entries must be received by midnight, **September 22, 2017**.
6. The paper must conform to the citation and format standard established in the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the American Psychological Association (APA) publication manual.
7. The title page of the paper should include the student's full name, address, and school affiliation.
8. The author's name and affiliation **should not** appear on any other page of the submission.

### PRESENTATION OF SUBMITTED PAPERS:

Students are not required to attend the annual meeting or to present their papers to be eligible for the awards. However, we do encourage students to present their papers in the supportive atmosphere of the annual meeting. Students who submit papers for presentation are **not obligated** to enter the paper contest. The paper competition is strictly voluntary.

RECOGNITION OF THE WINNERS AND PRESENTATION OF THE AWARDS WILL BE MADE  
AT THE LUNCHEON ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13