



2017 SWACJ UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION

Interested undergraduate students are encouraged to submit a paper on a criminal justice topic that is both relevant and current to criminal justice. There are a wide variety of types of papers that could conceivably be entered into this competition, which include:

- a) A literature review of a research topic that demonstrates the ability to synthesize current findings and interpret future research needs;
- b) A policy review of a crime related topic that incorporates an understanding of how policy impacts practice;
- c) A legal analysis of a relevant and current court case;
- d) A research proposal to study a crime and justice related topic

Submissions will be judged on: 1) the student's ability to select and synthesize the findings from significant recent research on the chosen topic; 2) the student's ability to compose an effective argument; 3) the student's demonstrated ability to identify future research needs; and 4) the student's ability to write effectively.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Undergraduate students enrolled during the fall 2017 semester in a university, college, junior college, or community college within the Southwest Region.

AWARDS: The authors of the top three submissions may be awarded \$150 (1st place), \$100 (2nd place), and \$50 (3rd place). Any prizes may be awarded or withheld at the judges' discretion.

JUDGES: Judges are active within SWACJ and will be selected from the updated membership list. Judges may choose not to 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 proposal.
3. Submissions must be submitted electronically to Dr. Michael Cavanaugh at cavanaughm@uhd.edu, and must 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 undergraduate 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 6th 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 strongly 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.