THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF HISPANICS IN HIGHER EDUCATION (AAHHE) AND EDUCATIONAL TESTING SERVICE (ETS) OUTSTANDING DISSERTATIONS COMPETITION (ODC) 2021

Guidelines

The following guidelines and accompanying explanations are provided to ensure objectivity and the highest possible standards for the Dissertations Competition.

1. **Who is eligible to enter the competition?**

   The competition is open to any Latinx who has completed a dissertation as part of a doctoral degree program in the social sciences, broadly defined, and/or anyone whose dissertation research conducted as part of a doctoral degree program in the social sciences focuses on the Latinx community. Additionally, the dissertation needs to have been completed between December 2018 and August 1, 2020.

   Dissertations are eligible if they are in domains that are related to the ETS corporate mission, including education, linguistics, psychology, statistics, testing, and so forth. Studies using any research approach (historical, experimental, survey, quantitative, mixed methods, etc.) are eligible.

   Dissertations in the humanities, basic sciences, technology, engineering, and mathematics are **not** eligible. Previous applicants are ineligible to apply.

   Completion is defined as:
   
   (a) received the doctoral degree between December 2018 and August 1, 2020

   OR

   (b) satisfactorily completed all the coursework and the dissertation between the dates specified above and the dissertation is acceptable to the candidate’s committee, but the degree has not been conferred.

2. **What is the process?**

   The competition involves a two-step process:
   
   1. Submission of a Dissertation Summary.

   2. If selected as a semi-finalist, the submission of the full dissertation.
3. **How should the Dissertation Summary be prepared?**

   For the first round of judging, the applicant’s dissertation is rated **SOLELY** upon the Dissertation Summary submitted. These summaries must accurately, concisely, and precisely reflect the research of the full dissertation.

   The Dissertation Summary must include and clearly label the following in this order:

   A. **Title page** — A sample title page is attached to these guidelines. Please provide all the information requested. One (1) page in length.

   B. **Letter** — A letter on university letterhead signed by the Chair of the applicant’s dissertation committee indicating that the dissertation meets the eligibility criteria defined earlier in these guidelines — detail is essential. The letter must also state how the Chair would rank the dissertation among previous dissertations chaired.

   C. **Abstract** — On a separate page, include a summary of approximately 250 words in length stating, in non-technical terms, the purpose, research problem, the methods, and major findings of the study, and the significance to the Latinx community. One (1) page in length, double-spaced.

   D. **Main report section** — You should include: (a) the statement of the problem; (b) the purpose of the study; (c) conceptual model, theoretical framework, and/or orientation, as applicable, and literature review; (d) methodology including participants, instrumentation, hypotheses or research questions, and data analysis; (e) major findings; (f) conclusions; (g) implications; and (h) significance to the broader research community and to the Latinx community. Not to exceed eighteen (18) pages, double-spaced.

   E. **Appendix** — List the references, tables, figures, diagrams, and pictures relevant to your summary. Not to exceed four (4) pages, double-spaced.

   Dissertation summaries that do not adhere to page limits specified in these guidelines will **not** be considered for the competition.

4. **What is the general judging process that will be used in the competition?**

   The judging will occur in two phases. The first phase will use the Dissertation Summaries as a basis. The Chair of the competition will send the Dissertation Summaries to a panel of judges who will evaluate them using the rubric attached to these guidelines (see p. 5). Each judge will be asked to submit to the Chair of the competition a ranking of their Dissertation Summaries. Based on the judges’ rankings, the Chair of the competition will determine the top seven (7) to ten (10) Dissertation Summaries and these become the semifinalists. The Chair contacts the semifinalists and requests a copy of the complete dissertation. The panel of
judges will evaluate the complete dissertations using the rubric attached to these guidelines (see p. 6) as a basis for the second phase. The panel of judges will convene to discuss and rank the complete dissertations and will determine the top three (3) dissertations, and honorable mentions, if applicable.

5. **What are the most important dates and deadlines?**

The schedule below, in addition to providing important dates and deadlines, provides additional information about the process.

- **Aug. 12, 2020** Applicants submit via PDF format a Dissertation Summary (as one complete document) to the Chair of the dissertation competition, Dr. David Garcia: david.garcia@asu.edu.

- **Aug. 17, 2020** Chair of the dissertations competition distributes Dissertation Summaries to the judges.

- **Sept. 14, 2020** Judges complete screening and advise the Chair of rankings.

- **Sept. 21, 2020** Chair of the dissertations competition determines the top seven (7) to ten (10) Dissertation Summaries and advises all semifinalists of the results.

- **Sept. 25, 2020** Semifinalists send a copy of complete dissertation in PDF format to david.garcia@asu.edu.

- **Oct. 15-16, 2020** Panel of judges confers and selects the top three (3) dissertations and honorable mentions, if any.

- **Oct. 19, 2020** Chair of the competition notifies the winners and the others not selected of results.

- **March 4 – 6, 2021** Winners are invited to present their dissertations at the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education Sixteenth Annual National Conference at the Hilton Irvine Hotel, Irvine, California.

- **March 6, 2021** The ODC winners for 2021 are announced at the Awards Breakfast at the AAHHE National Conference Hotel Irvine, California.

  Announcements will be posted on the website of both AAHHE and ETS, will be advertised in the *Journal of Hispanic Higher Education, Hispanic Outlook of Higher Education* and other journals. ETS will announce the competition results to its constituencies.
Announcements of the competition and guidelines for 2021 are sent to all individual members of AAHHE and to the presidents of AAHHE institutional members.

6. **What recognition will be given to the winners?**

   There will be two types, or levels, of winners:
   
   a. The first level consists of the First, Second, and Third Place Winners.
   
   b. The second level, if applicable, consists of those who are recognized as Honorable Mention (out of the remaining semi-finalists).

The three (3) finalists will be recognized formally at the annual Awards Breakfast during AAHHE’s Sixteenth Annual Conference in Irvine, California, March 4 - 6, 2021.

AAHHE will pay for travel expenses within the continental U.S. for the three (3) finalists, to include hotel room for two (2) nights and per diem for two (2) days. AAHHE will also pay the registration costs for the finalists at the conference.

The first place winner will receive an award of $3,000. The second place winner will receive an award of $2,000, and the third place winner will receive an award of $1,000. The first place winner will receive an Edward Gonzales print, the second and third place winners will each receive an AAHHE/ETS plaque.

The three (3) finalists will also present their dissertations in individual concurrent sessions at the conference. AAHHE will ask the three (3) finalists to submit an academic article based on the dissertation to the *Journal of Hispanic Higher Education*.

7. **Who makes the final decision?**

   All decisions by the panel of judges are final.
## OUTSTANDING DISSERTATIONS COMPETITION ABSTRACT RUBRIC

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<th>Absent</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<td>9-12</td>
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**Total Score**

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(Last Revised March 12, 2020)
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AND
EDUCATIONAL TESTING SERVICE (ETS)
OUTSTANDING DISSERTATIONS COMPETITION 2021
TITLE PAGE

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Address: _________________________________________________________

Preferred Phone: ________________________________________________

Current University or Employer Affiliation: ____________________________

Address: _________________________________________________________

Current Title: ____________________________________________________

Title of Dissertation in Full: _______________________________________

Name of Institution Granting Degree: _________________________________

Degree Discipline: ________________________________

Address: _________________________________________________________

Dissertation Chair: ________________________________________________

Chair's Email: ___________________________ Chair's Phone: ____________

Doctoral Advisor if different from Dissertation Chair: _______________________

Advisor's Email: ___________________________ Advisor's Phone: __________

Date on which doctoral degree was conferred:

Month: _______ Day: _____ Year: ______

Date on which coursework and completed dissertation were acceptable to candidate's committee (if doctoral degree not yet conferred):

Month: _______ Day: _____ Year: ______

Dissertation was completed by a Latinx scholar and/or focuses on the Latinx community? Yes □ No □