



**THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF HISPANICS IN HIGHER EDUCATION (AAHHE)
AND EDUCATIONAL TESTING SERVICE (ETS)
OUTSTANDING DISSERTATIONS COMPETITION (ODC) 2020**

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 Hispanic community. Additionally, the dissertation needs to have been completed between December 2017 and August 1, 2019.

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.

Completion is defined as:

- (a) received the doctoral degree between December 2017 and August 1, 2019

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 Hispanic 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; (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 Hispanic 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, 2019	Applicants submit via PDF format a Dissertation Summary (as one complete document) to the Chair of the dissertation competition, Dr. Patricia A. Pérez: pperez@fullerton.edu.
Aug. 19, 2019	Chair of the dissertations competition distributes Dissertation Summaries to the judges.
Sept. 16, 2019	Judges complete screening and advise the Chair of rankings.
Sept. 19, 2019	Chair of the dissertations competition determines the top seven (7) to ten (10) Dissertation Summaries and advises all semifinalists of the results.
Sept. 22, 2019	Semifinalists send a copy of complete dissertation in PDF format to Dr. Patricia A. Pérez: pperez@fullerton.edu.
Oct. 10-11, 2019	Panel of judges confers and selects the top three (3) dissertations and honorable mentions, if any.
Oct. 21, 2019	Chair of the competition notifies the winners and the others not selected of results.
March 5 – 7, 2020	Winners are invited to present their dissertations at the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education Sixteenth Annual National Conference at the Hilton Costa Mesa Hotel, Costa Mesa, California.
March 7, 2020	The ODC winners for 2020 are announced at the Awards Breakfast at the AAHHE National Conference in Costa Mesa, California. Announcements will be posted on the website of both AAHHE and ETS, will be advertised in the <i>Journal of Hispanic Higher Education</i> , <i>Hispanic Outlook of Higher Education</i> 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 Costa Mesa, California, March 5 – 7, 2020.

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						
Category	Exemplary	Good	Satisfactory	Not Acceptable	Absent	Score
(1) Abstract (Includes purpose, research problem, methods used, major findings, and significance to Hispanic community; 250 words max)	5	3-4	2	1	0	
(2) Statement of the problem	5	3-4	2	1	0	
(3) Purpose of the study	5	3-4	2	1	0	
(4) Conceptual model, theoretical framework, and/or orientation, and literature review	13-15	9-12	5-8	1-4	0	
(5) Methodology (Quantitative: Participants, instrumentation, hypotheses or research questions, and data analysis; Qualitative: Participants, instrumentation, research questions, and data analysis [coding, software used, rationale, triangulation, themes, interpretations, conclusions]).	16-20	11-15	6-10	1-5	0	
(6) Major findings	9-10	6-8	3-5	1-2	0	
(7) Conclusions	5	3-4	2	1	0	
(8) Implications	9-10	6-8	3-5	1-2	0	
(9) Significance to the broader research community	9-10	6-8	3-5	1-2	0	
(10) Significance to the Hispanic community	9-10	6-8	3-5	1-2	0	
(11) Overall clarity, grammar, spelling and organization	5	3-4	2	1	0	
Total Score						/100

OUTSTANDING DISSERTATIONS COMPETITION COMPLETE DISSERTATION RUBRIC

Category	Exemplary	Good	Satisfactory	Not Acceptable	Absent	Score
(1) Statement of the problem	5	3-4	2	1	0	
(2) Purpose of the study	5	3-4	2	1	0	
(3) Conceptual model, theoretical framework, and/or orientation	5	3-4	2	1	0	
(4) Literature review	9-10	6-8	3-5	1-2	0	
(5) Methodology: Participants/sample/dataset/case study	5	3-4	2	1	0	
(6) Methodology: Instrumentation/Protocol	5	3-4	2	1	0	
(7) Methodology: Research questions & hypotheses	5	3-4	2	1	0	
(8) Methodology: Data Analysis (Qualitative - Coding, software used, rationale, triangulation, themes, interpretations, conclusions, if applicable; Quantitative - appropriate statistical analysis used and results interpreted correctly, validity and reliability of scores addressed)	9-10	6-8	3-5	1-2	0	
(9) Major findings	9-10	6-8	3-5	1-2	0	
(10) Conclusions	5	3-4	2	1	0	
11) Implications	9-10	6-8	3-5	1-2	0	
(12) Significance to the broader research community	9-10	6-8	3-5	1-2	0	
(13) Significance to the Hispanic community	9-10	6-8	3-5	1-2	0	
(14) Overall clarity, grammar, spelling and organization	5	3-4	2	1	0	
Total Score						/100

(Revised November 28, 2018)



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OUTSTANDING DISSERTATIONS COMPETITION 2020

TITLE PAGE

Name: _____

Address: _____ Preferred Phone: _____

_____ Email: _____

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: _____