



Sam Houston State University

A Member of the Texas State University System

COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

College of Criminal Justice

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College of Criminal Justice Outstanding Dissertation Award

This award is presented to doctoral students in recognition of the completion of outstanding dissertations.

Purpose: The Outstanding Dissertation Award (Award) is to recognize students completing a doctoral degree in the College of Criminal Justice at Sam Houston State University whose doctoral dissertation reflects superior scholarship.

The Award: The recipient will receive a plaque and a certificate commemorating this achievement during the College of Criminal Justice's Annual Awards Luncheon held each spring. The recipient's name will also be engraved on a plaque located in the College of Criminal Justice and displayed in a prominent location. A monetary gift will accompany the Award.

Eligibility: All dissertations successfully completed during a calendar year are eligible for nomination. Dissertations successfully defended during the Spring, Summer or Fall semester in any given year are eligible for nomination.

Nomination: The Chair and at least one other member of a student's dissertation committee must nominate a dissertation for consideration for the Award. Each faculty member nominating a dissertation must provide the Selection Committee with a letter detailing the strengths of the dissertation and why it should be considered "outstanding." The Chair of the dissertation committee shall also provide the Selection Committee with an electronic copy and one "hard copy" of the final draft (version filed with the Office of Graduate Studies and Newton Gresham Library) by no later than January 31st of the calendar year following the project's completion.

Selection: Nominations for Outstanding Dissertation are reviewed by the Outstanding Dissertation Selection Committee (Selection Committee) annually during the Spring semester to determine whether or not a nominated dissertation qualifies for selection. The Selection Committee will be composed of

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members of the College of Criminal Justice's graduate faculty. The Selection Committee shall be chaired by the Chair of the Awards and Beto-Chair Selection Committee and will consist of four additional members appointed by the Dean representing each of the following areas of expertise: Legal, Statistics and Research Methods, Criminology, and Administration. The Selection Committee may ask other members of the graduate faculty from within the College and University to read the dissertation and make recommendations but the final responsibility for rank-ordering nominees will remain with the Selection Committee.

In the event that a member of the Selection Committee has served as Chair or written a letter in support of a nominated dissertation, that person shall recuse himself/herself from the meeting during any discussion or deliberations concerning that dissertation. Faculty members may nominate only ONE dissertation they have chaired for consideration during any given year.

During the Spring semester of each year, members of the Selection Committee shall independently read and evaluate each nominated dissertation using the attached Evaluation Rubric. Upon completion of the independent reviews, the Selection Committee shall convene, share comments and discuss the merits of each nominee's dissertation. The Selection Committee may decide not to give an Award in any given year.

If the Selection Committee decides to give an Award, an attempt will be made to reach a consensus concerning the rank-ordering of the nominees. If a consensus on the rank-ordering cannot be reached, the final ranking shall be determined by a majority vote. Once the final rank-ordering is determined the Selection Committee shall forward the rank-ordered list of names and a copy of the dissertation identified as "Outstanding" (ranked #1) to the Dean. The Dean shall review the material submitted and if s/he concurs with the committee's recommendation, notify the author of the top ranked dissertation of the Award. The Dean may also invite the Selection Committee and/or any other member of the University's graduate faculty to assist in her/his deliberations to reconsider the rank-ordering of nominees and/or determine that no Outstanding Dissertation be awarded.

Approved by faculty 9/8/07 and Revised 4/10/09

**College of Criminal Justice Outstanding Dissertation Award
Evaluation Rubric**

Reviewer: _____
 Student's Name: _____
 Dissertation Title: _____

Evaluation: (Please circle the rating that best represents your assessment of the dissertation on each of the following criteria):

	Insignificant					Critically Significant
Choice of Problem	1	2	3	4		5
	Non existent					Well Grounded
Theoretical Framework	1	2	3	4		5
	Inappropriate					Highly Appropriate
Mode of Inquiry	1	2	3	4		5
	Unsystematic					Highly Disciplined
Execution of Study	1	2	3	4		5
	Not Grounded					Well Grounded
Interpretation of Results	1	2	3	4		5
	Basic Methods					Highly Sophisticated
Analysis	1	2	3	4		5
	Unclear					Clear
Written Presentation	1	2	3	4		5
	Routine					Highly Original
Originality of Idea and/or Approach	1	2	3	4		5
	Routine					Highly Significant
Contribution to the Field	1	2	3	4		5

Overall Score

Summary Comments (on back if necessary) _____