

Outstanding Dissertation Award 2012

GUIDELINES

The following guidelines and accompanying explanation are provided to help ensure the highest possible standards for the competition and to make the competition as objective as possible.

1. Who is eligible to enter the competition?

The competition is open to those who have completed a dissertation in the field of bilingual education between December 15, 2010 and May 15, 2011. Competition is defined as:

(a) received the doctoral degree between the specified dates

OR

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

A routine check is made with the chair of the dissertation committee of the applicant to protect all competitors, the universities, and the National Association for Bilingual Education.

Studies using any research approach (historical, experimental, survey, etc.) are eligible.

2. What are the criteria to be used in evaluating the dissertations?

Basically three criteria will be used to evaluate the dissertations:

(a) the appropriateness of the research approach used;

(b) the scholarly quality of the dissertation; and

(c) the significance of its contribution to knowledge in the bilingual education field.

3. What is the deadline for the competition?

The first deadline is **October 31, 2011**. By this date the chair of the Outstanding Dissertations competition 2012 has to receive an electronic copy of the dissertation abstract prepared as directed by these guidelines.

4. How should the dissertation abstracts be prepared?

For the first round of judging, the applicant's dissertation is rated **SOLELY** upon the dissertation abstract submitted. This abstract, then, must reflect concisely and accurately the research of the full dissertation.

The following directions should be used in the preparation of the abstract.

a. Format

The abstract should include the following:

- (1) **Title page**
- (2) **Letter** – A letter, on university stationery, signed by the chair of the dissertation committee, indicating that the dissertation meets one of the eligibility criteria, defined earlier in these guidelines. One page in length.
- (3) **Summary** – On a separate page, include a summary, **approximately 150 words in length**, in which you state in non-technical terms, the purpose and major findings of your study. Double-spaced, and one page in length.
- (4) **Main report section** – You should include the statement of the problem; the purpose of the study; definition of key terms; sampling techniques to include size, description, etc. (if applicable); theoretical framework; main hypotheses; overview of analyses of data (if applicable); main findings and conclusions; and implications. **THE MAIN REPORT SECTIONS SHOULD NOT EXCEED FIFTEEN (15) PAGES IN LENGTH, DOUBLE-SPACED.**
- (5) **Bibliography** – Include a complete reference to each item cited in the dissertation abstract. References for items not used in the abstract should not be included.
- (6) **Appendix** – If the applicant requires additional space in which to present details of a research instrument, a theoretical point of view, or to elaborate on some other vital point, an appendix may be included. Not to exceed (3) three pages, double-spaced.

b. Length. The total abstract should not exceed twenty-five (25) typewritten, double-spaced, 8 ½” x 11” pages, including all the sections mentioned above.

c. Writing Style – Your writing style should be clear, consistent, and concise. Particular care should be taken to insure that each table, chart and/or figure is adequately explained.

5. How many copies of the dissertation abstract are required?

An electronic copy should be sent by October 31, 2011 to:

Mrs. Jacqueline E. Romano
jacqueline.romano@unt.edu

6. What is the general procedure that will be used in the competition?

The judging, generally speaking, will be in two phases. The first phase will use the dissertation abstracts as a basis. The chair, of the competition, will send the abstracts to a Panel of Judges, who will be asked to judge/evaluate the abstracts. Each judge will be asked to submit, to the chair of the competition, a ranking of the top five (5) abstracts. The chair of the competition will determine the top five (5) to seven (7) abstracts and will ask the writers to submit a copy of the complete dissertation, to be used as a basis for the second phase of the judging/evaluating process. The Panel of Judges will convene to read, evaluate, and rank the complete dissertations and will determine the top three (3) dissertations.

7. May I participate in the Outstanding Dissertation competition 2012 if I participated in the 2011 Competition?

Everyone who participated in the 2011 competition can participate with the exception of the top three (3) winners, assuming that the eligibility criteria as outlined earlier in the Guidelines are met.

8. What recognition will be given to the winners?

The winner will be recognized formally during the **NABE Conference 2012 in DALLAS, TX**. The National Association will pay for travel expenses within the continental United States and per diem for one (1) day for the winner.

9. Who makes the final decision?

All decisions by the Panel of Judges are final.