

# NABE Outstanding Dissertation Competition Guidelines

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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.

## **Who is eligible to enter the competition?**

The competition is open to those who have completed a dissertation in the field of bilingual education during the posted dates of eligibility. 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.

## **May I participate in the current Outstanding Dissertation competition if I participated in the previous year's competition?**

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

## **What recognition will be given to the winners?**

**First Place Winner** The winner will be recognized formally during the NABE Awards Luncheon at the NABE Conference. NABE will pay for travel expenses (travel ticket up to \$ 500.00, within the continental United States), two (2) nights lodging and one (1) NABE Conference Registration and one (1) NABE Awards Luncheon ticket. **Second and Third Place Winner** The winners will be recognized formally during the NABE Awards Luncheon at the NABE 2019 Conference. NABE will provide winners with one (1) NABE Conference Registration and one (1) NABE Awards Luncheon ticket. Applicants will be notified by January 15th, 2019.

## **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.

## **What are the criteria to be used in evaluating the dissertations?**

The following 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.

### **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 the research of the full dissertation concisely and accurately. 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 ensure that each table, chart and/or figure is adequately explained. Document must be in **PDF** or **PDFX** format. Document must be submitted electronically via the online application system.

**Photograph:** In addition to completing the online application form and the abstract, as outlined above, a professional high-resolution photo must be submitted. Photograph must be in **JPG** or **TIFF** format. Photograph must be submitted electronically via the online application system.

**Eligibility Disclaimer:** NABE committee members and their family members are not eligible to enter the contest. Family members of committee members include siblings, parents, significant others, children, grandchildren, and grandparents. Additionally, students of committee members, or students of family members of committee members, are not eligible to enter the contest.