

Submission Guidelines

The ACPA 2021 Student Paper Competition:

The ACPA Student Paper Competition recognizes outstanding work by Masters Students from across Canada in the fields of Public Administration and Public Policy. This is an exciting opportunity for students to gain exposure for their work while competing for recognition and cash prizes.

For this year's competition, we invite submissions of academic papers related to the theme of **Regional Economic Development**. The competition is open to all students either currently enrolled or recent graduates (Class of 2020) in a Masters Program in Public Administration or Public Policy at an accredited Canadian university. The competition is open to both full-time and part-time students.

Timeline:

All papers must be submitted by 11:59 pm EST on December 11, 2020. The top five entries will be selected by January 13, 2021, and these students will be invited to prepare a presentation for delivery at the ACPA 2021 conference. Presentations will run on the morning of January 21, 2021, and will be limited to ten minutes per student.

Adjudication:

All submissions will be pre-screened by our Editorial Board, consisting of representatives from Dalhousie University and Université de Moncton. Those papers deemed eligible and acceptable by the Editorial Board will be passed on to the Judge's Panel for full scoring. The Judge's Panel will feature academic judges from institutions from across the country, and will rank the papers according to the following criteria:

Relevance and Contribution to the Competition Theme: Does the paper make a meaningful contribution to advance our understanding in the areas of public administration and regional economic development?

Comprehensiveness of Research: Does the paper demonstrate a thorough and well-rounded familiarity with the literature – both academic and government publications – within the scope of the project?

Strength and Originality of Analysis: Does the paper advance a robust argument that is both logically coherent and intellectually innovative?

Structure and Clarity of Communication: Does the paper present its ideas in a clear, well organized, and well written manner?

Each adjudicator will use the same evaluation matrix to score the submissions. Only those students selected to present at the conference will be contacted.

Submission Requirements:

Papers may be submitted in English or French. Papers must be submitted by a single author, and as the sole work of that author. Papers may be new works or adapted from previous course work.

Submissions should include an academic paper of no more than 3000 words in length (not including cover page, abstract, references, charts, tables, or appendices) as well as an abstract of no more than 300 words. All submissions will be name blind; applicants should submit the following three, separate files:

- One PDF including: a cover page with title, author, academic affiliation, and word count; abstract; the full text of the paper; a list of references; any charts, table, or appendices
- A Microsoft Word Document identical to the above
- A name-blind Microsoft Word Document containing a cover page with only the title and word count; abstract; the full text of the paper; a list of references; any charts, table, or appendices

Applicants may format their papers as they wish. Any style of academic citations is acceptable so long as it is clear and consistent.

Prizes:

The top 5 applicants will be selected to deliver an oral presentation of their work at the conference. In addition, cash prizes will be awarded as follows:

First Place: \$500

Second Place: \$250

Third Place: \$100

The David MacDonald Memorial Award in Public Administration for the best paper submitted by a Dalhousie student currently enrolled in the Master of Public Administration Program: \$500

Any further inquiries may be directed to the Competition Chair at acpa-caap@dal.ca