

# Shelomo Osman Memorial Student Awards 2017 Guidelines for Graduate Students

Sponsored by



## The \$500 Osman Award

A cash prize of \$500 is awarded to first-year students in social-work master's programs who are ACSWA members (\$35 fee) based on the judging of a paper which recounts the process of a field-placement intervention. The program is named for the late Shel Osman, MSW, BCD, of Los Angeles, California, third president of the American Board of Examiners in Clinical Social Work (now a unit of the Center for Clinical Social Work, as is ACSWA, the sponsor). This national competition is judged by faculty, practitioners, and by directors and staff of ACSWA. Deadline is May 20, 2017.

## A Winning Paper

The author of a winning paper will focus on a complex field-placement intervention that they undertook, and will embody the following:

- Recount the process of one of your interventions, tracking its development from start to finish and presenting a case which broadened your professional development
- Demonstrate familiarity with current clinical literature (at least ten references and citations) and high academic quality including logical structure, fluid transitions, effective sub-headings, and thoughtful paragraphs.
- Your paper increase your chances of winning to the extent that your paper includes the following: assessment, diagnosis, selection of theory, treatment plan, intervention (values and methods), and use of supervision.

## Components of the winning paper

Your paper should embody most of the following indicators:

**Context.** Introduce yourself (use the personal “I”) and give us a sketch of your background and your client’s. Describe the practice context/ecosystem. Discuss the setting, use-of-self, and duration of intervention (time-frame and number of sessions). Be sure to state the client’s presenting problems and possible underlying problems, and address person-in-environment issues.

**Therapeutic Alliance.** Discuss the development of an alliance with the client—be thorough and detailed. Make it lively and engaging—avoid “textbook” wording. How was it achieved? What was the level of collaboration? What was the impact on the outcome? If no such alliance was formed, why not and how was collaboration achieved?

**Bio-psycho-social Assessment.** Bio. Psycho. Social. All three must be addressed. Assess the situation and special circumstances of the client, relating these to clinical social work methods and normal-abnormal growth and development (human behavior in the social environment). Be skeptical, probing, and willing to evaluate accuracy and aptness, post-intervention.

**Differential Diagnosis.** Discuss your evaluation and differential diagnosis (if appropriate), especially with respect to your research into diagnosis, which diagnoses were considered, which were rejected, and why one (or more) was chosen. Diagnosis should involve judgments as to the hierarchy of problems and disorders; relate it to DSM axes and descriptions.

**Selection of Theory.** There is no single best theory for a given intervention. Discuss the following: research into theories relevant to the diagnosis; which theories you considered to guide the intervention and why; and which theory or theories you applied (recognizing that the theoretical orientation might need to be changed during the intervention). Theory is not the same as technique or method!

**Treatment Plan.** Discuss how you created a treatment plan using the findings of diagnosis and evaluation and **in collaboration with the client**. Discuss problems, overcoming them, and setting realistic goals. Show how the plan integrated theory, supervision, client feedback, and outcome measures. Did it work?

**Intervention: Clinical Social Work Values and Methods.** Without generalizing, describe your use of clinical social work values in this intervention, such as primacy of client need; contributing to a just society; ethical concerns;

strengthening human relationships, especially within the family; respect for diversity and dignity; cultural competency; and client's rights to self-determination. Discuss the intervention in terms of techniques and methods, including a person-in-environment approach, professional use of self, the influence of the practice setting, overcoming barriers to service delivery, and discussing continuous client feedback related to treatment goals.

**Intervention: Use of Supervision.** Show how you used supervision to assist or inform your choices throughout the intervention. When relevant, show how you discussed issues with clinical supervisor(s) and made use of the advice (or not, and why), and changed aspects of the intervention (if you did).

**Conclusion:** Show what you learned and how the client was helped; describe positives and negatives for the client and impacts of clinical social work perspective; discuss what you might have done differently.

## Formatting

### (mandatory—papers will be disqualified for non-compliance)

1. Cover page has title of paper, author's name, home address and phone number, school, school address, faculty sponsor name and phone number, field sponsor name and phone number, and total number of pages including reference pages.
2. Abstract page has the title of the paper and an abstract of content (150 words or less), **omitting any reference to author or school**—no personal information on this page.
3. Body of paper does not exceed 3000 words (list word count on abstract page), double-spaced, with 12-point typeface and at least one-inch margins all around. Use sub-heads as appropriate. References, tables, appendices, etc. are not included in word count.
4. References & Citations. Place citations within the body of the paper and list all references at the end. See examples below.
5. Pages must be numbered. A running head (abbreviated version of title) must appear in the upper right corner of each page.

## Editing

Proper nouns must be disguised for confidentiality reasons.

Persons: Replace all names with a letter of the alphabet or a relationship title (e.g. G., Mother, Friend). Use letters other than the person's actual initial(s). If two persons share the same title, use formations like Sister A or Child 2.

Places: Replace names of all locations or agencies with a letter (e.g. Z Clinic, Town B, State X). Do not name your school or any cities or towns, agencies, or states.

## Submitting Your Paper

Submit your paper and sponsors' endorsements by email attachment. Submissions will receive a receipt within three business days (add [abe@abecsw.org](mailto:abe@abecsw.org) to your "allowed senders" list). Deadline for receipt is May 20, 2017. Early submissions are encouraged. **Do not submit a paper in pieces—cover page through reference list must be one document.**

Send paper by email attachment (MSWord only, not PDF) to [abe@abecsw.org](mailto:abe@abecsw.org) (subject: Student Awards). Body of cover message must include:

- Your name
- Your year of anticipated graduation
- Your personal contact information (also on paper's cover page)
- Name of graduate school you attend
- Title of your paper
- Statement that you are applying for the Osman Award
- Affirmation that you followed guidelines (see checklist below)
- Affirmation that you obtained a sponsorship letter(s) (see Sponsorship below)

## **Sponsor Letters:**

Before submitting your paper, arrange for us to receive letters from the faculty coordinator of your field placement and the supervisor at your field setting (they can both sign the same letter, or send separate letters). Sponsor letter(s) must be on school letterhead and include:

- Affirmation that both parties support the submission of your paper
- Title of the paper
- Confirmation that paper is based on a final-year field placement
- Confirmation that you are in good academic standing, and not scheduled to graduate in 2017
- Signatures of both parties

This letter(s) may be scanned and emailed to [abe@abecsw.org](mailto:abe@abecsw.org) (include identifying info too), or faxed to (781) 639-5278, Attn: Student Awards.

## Examples of Citations/References

**References** must be listed at the end of your paper, alphabetically by author surname. The following examples are a guide (you may also use standard American Psychological Association format):

- Doe, J. (2005) Dreams Revealed. *The Ego-Psychology Journal*, 14, (pp. 12-17)
- Doe, J., Jones, E., Smith A. (2007) Chapter 3 Underlying Issues Revealed. *Dreams Analysis* (pp. 83-84, 97) Fictional Press: New York
- Jones, W. (2010) *Ego-Psychology Perspective: A New Approach*. Fictional Press: New York
- Jones, W. (2009) *Ego-Psychology Perspective: A New Approach*. (pp. 40-62) Fictional Press: New York

**Citations** appear within the body of the paper. The following examples are a guide:

- G's dreams may be analyzed from an ego-psychology perspective (Jones, 2005).
- Jones (2007) states, "an ego-psychology perspective can be helpful in analyzing dreams" (pp. 60-62), and this has proven to be true in my work with G.
- Dreams may be analyzed from an ego-psychology perspective, which may aid in understanding and interpreting underlying issues (Jones, 1999; Brown, 2008).
- As illustrated in my work with G, "an ego-psychology perspective can be helpful in analyzing dreams" (Jones, 2009, p. 60). Interpreting underlying issues is an integral part of the dream-analysis process (Brown, 2011, pp. 14-15).
- I used a strengths-based approach in my work with G (Jones, E., Smith A., Doe, J., 2010). The model (pp. 138-145), applied to G's fears, helped to overcome anxieties.

## Checklist

Have you made sure that your paper and sponsor letters meet the Holm Awards criteria? Include this filled-out checklist in your cover letter or email (**some excellent papers are disqualified each year for failure to follow guidelines**):

- Are you a member of ACSWA?
- Did you follow the formatting guidelines throughout your paper?
- Did you follow the instructions for editing throughout your entire paper?
- Did you follow the instructions for citations and references?
- Is your sponsorship letter (or letters) from your faculty and field liaisons on official letterhead stationery?
- Does the cover page on your paper list all the required information?
- Did you omit all references to your name on the abstract page?
- If you are mailing your paper, have you included three copies?
- Have you enclosed your application letter and your sponsors' letters?
- If you are submitting by email attachment, have you drafted your paper in MSWord with all parts in a single document file?
- Have you added [abe@abecsw.org](mailto:abe@abecsw.org) to your "allowed senders" list?
- Have you compared your paper with this Checklist and noted that in your cover email?
- Does your email include the required information?

**We at ACSWA wish you well in this competition and hope that you will make us your partner in your career as a clinical social worker.**