

NCSA 2026 SEIDLER PAPER COMPETITION FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

The North Central Sociological Association is pleased to announce its annual paper competition for all graduate students. The Seidler Award competition is open to all M.A. and Ph.D. students in the region.

AWARDS

- Up to three awards will be given.
- Division winners will receive a certificate in recognition of their award.
- Graduate division winners will receive a cash award at the NCSA annual meeting and will be distributed as follows: 1st place receives \$200, 2nd place receives \$175, and 3rd place receives \$150.
- Additionally, the first-place winner in the graduate division will be honored as the recipient of the John Seidler Award and the winner's paper will be considered for publication in *Sociological Focus*.
- Co-authored or multiple authored winners will share the specified monetary award.
- All award winners will be honored at a special time during the annual meeting of the NCSA.

COMPETITION RULES

- **The maximum length of a paper is 7,000 words** (approximately 18-20 pages). An abstract of no more than 100 words must also be included. The word count excludes the abstract, tables, figures, references, and appendices. Papers exceeding the word count will be disqualified from competition.
- The title page must include the author's name, institutional affiliation, divisional status (graduate or undergraduate), email address, and the name, address, and telephone number of the student's advisor/mentor. After the title page, no additional pages of the paper should include the author's name, advisor's name, or any school affiliation. Pages should be numbered.
- Students are encouraged follow American Sociological Association (ASA) formatting and citation styles.
- **PLEASE BE AWARE THAT** only papers written by author(s) currently enrolled as graduate students are eligible for consideration. Papers with multiple authors will be considered provided that all authors are current graduate students.
- If a student is resubmitting a paper that has been previously submitted at NCSA, they should note that the same presentation should not be given twice. The resubmitted papers should include significant changes and focus on a different component or different analyses within the project.
- Applicants must submit a Word document. The submitting author may be contacted via email to provide an additional copy that can be edited, or for questions.

- The Word document should be named following this example:
Jennifer Smith, a graduate student, from Big State University → **JSmith_BSU_G**
- To be considered for competition, all research papers must be made via the online submission portal at [Competition Portal](#)
- As a security feature for submitting to the competition, you will need to ‘sign in’ to the submission form. You will be able to use any email address and the password of your choosing. As this is a Google form, if you have a Gmail or Google account – use that email address for ease of use. However, you DO NOT need to have a Gmail account. Creating a simple Google account is as easy as using the email address of your choice and creating a password. We suggest you create the account using an email address you check often so you will be able to respond to requests for additional information and/or receive notifications regarding your submission. If you have questions regarding creating an account, contact Melinda at mmessine@bsu.edu
- **Winners are expected** to present their competition papers at the 2026 Pittsburgh annual meeting to receive the monetary award.
- Hence, all research papers submitted by graduate students to the competition must also be submitted to the regular conference program. Thus, graduate students should submit a presentation based on their competition paper by **December 1, 2025** using the normal conference submission system. The link to submit presentations is: [Paper submission portal](#)
- The full, completed competition paper is due by **January 5, 2026**.

JUDGING

A panel of judges will blind review papers. The judges will employ conventional scholarly criteria -- including thesis development, theoretical application, methodological application, discussion/findings, and mechanics (e.g., grammar, spelling, consistent formatting/citation style, etc.) -- in their deliberations. The graduate student paper award will also be reviewed for its potential for publication. The awards committee reserves the right not to award any or all prizes in a division should papers not be of sufficient quality or of sufficient number.

Please submit full papers no later than January 5, 2026.

[Competition Portal](#)

Questions?

Contact Paper Competition Selection Chair

Dr. Fang Gong

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