

EVALUATION CRITERIA
APA Division 15 (Educational Psychology)
Paul R. Pintrich Outstanding Dissertation Award

All application materials submitted for consideration for the Paul R. Pintrich Outstanding Dissertation Award will be evaluated by the Award Committee. Dissertation abstracts will be judged by the Award Committee on a scale from 1 (*poor*) to 7 (*outstanding*) along the following dimensions:

Significance. *The theoretical or practical significance to the field should be evident.*

- **Theoretical:** The study should contribute to theoretical, defensible knowledge in education or learning theory.
- **Practical:** The study should have clear, practical applications to the resolution of a problem or problems in education.

Quality of Writing. *The abstract should be organized and clear.*

- **Organization:** The extended (2000-word) abstract should be organized according to APA guidelines.
- **Clarity:** The abstract should be clearly written and presented in an easy-to-understand format that minimizes research jargon.

Quality of Research. *The abstract should reflect high quality research.*

- **Conceptual Framework:** The problem should be stated clearly in the abstract. The research question and/or any specific hypotheses should be stated.
- **Design:** The research design should be clearly stated in the abstract.
- **Methods:** The abstract must contain a methods section that identifies the sample, any apparatus, instrumentation, or materials used and the procedures employed to collect the data.
- **Analysis and Findings:** The abstract should contain information about the methods of data analysis. The results of the study should be stated succinctly.
- **Tables/Figures:** Any tables/figures included support the findings or discussion in the abstract.

Interpretation. *The conclusions drawn are valid and well grounded.*

- **Clarity:** The author's conclusions should be stated clearly and substantiated by the evidence gathered in the study.
- **Validity:** The author addresses both the limitations of the study and the extent to which findings in the study are generalizable and useful for researchers and practitioners.

Please visit <http://www.uky.edu/~eushe2/div15> for more information on Division 15 dissertation awards.