

2013 Ohio Valley Student Conference Paper Presentation Competition

TOPIC: "Body of Knowledge – Is it Ethical to Associate Credentials With Competency"

The following can be used to stimulate, but should in no way limit, the discussion:

Credentials are sometimes described as “paper” qualifications obtained by completing a formal educational experience resulting in a certificate, diploma or degree. Competencies have been defined as measurable skills which can relate to one’s ability to perform the specific tasks and duties of their chosen occupation or profession. When compared to competencies or experience, credentials are relatively easy to measure and evaluate when comparing the qualifications of individuals. The American Society of Civil Engineers Policy Statement 465 supports the concept of the master’s degree or equivalent as a prerequisite for licensure and the practice of civil engineering at the professional level. Some questions to consider:

- What, if any, are the ethical responsibilities the profession has in setting licensure prerequisites?
- What are the potential ethical issues of using credentials as a measure of professional competency?
- What are the ethical issues of continuing to maintain current licensure requirements in light of the ever-increasing technical complexity of our profession?
- What are the ethical considerations of engineering educators who are being pressured by universities, elected officials or governing bodies to reduce the number of credit hours required to award an engineering degree?
- What are the ethical issues of only presenting competencies as qualifications?

RULES:

1. Papers are not to exceed 2,000 words in length, must be written by only one person, and should not have appeared in any publications other than in school or chapter publications. Reference citations of the papers should conform to official ASCE Journal Submission Guidelines, which can be found on the ASCE Publications website:

<http://www.asce.org/Audience/Authors,--Editors/Journals/Authors/Resources-for-Authors/>

A complete bibliography should also be included, if appropriate.

2. Authors must be undergraduate students and both ASCE Student Organization members and ASCE national student members in good standing at the time of submission to be considered.
3. One electronic copy of the paper should be submitted to:

Lauren Hedges at asce.csu@gmail.com

Subject: OVSC Technical Paper Submission from (your school name).

Papers must be **received** by March 1st, 2013.

4. Each author will be expected to make a 5-minute* oral presentation on the paper. Up to five minutes of questioning by the judges will be allotted following each presentation. (*Allowance of + or – 5 seconds without penalty.)
5. The paper portion of the competition constitutes 50% of the final score, while the oral presentation accounts for the remaining 50% of the score. A detailed breakdown of the scoring procedure is outlined on the scoring summary sheet.

SELECTION:

Winners will be selected by a panel of at least three (3) judges to be identified by the host school.

Note: Submission for the ASCE Student Conference Paper Competition does not constitute an entry for the National Daniel W. Mead Student Contest. While the paper topic is the same – and the same paper may be submitted for both contests – they are two separate events and require two separate submissions. For a complete set of rules for the 2013 National Daniel W. Mead Student Contest, please visit <http://www.asce.org/studentorgs>.