

## Saint Mary's Academic Writing Awards Guidelines, 2017

The Saint Mary's University Writing Awards recognizes the best in academic writing in four categories: Humanities, Social Science, Science, and Business, in two levels—**lower** (students with 60 or less total credit hours from any institution) and **upper** (students with more than 60 total credit hours from any institution). Papers at the upper level will be judged at a higher standard. Winners of the award are recognized as follows:

1. Runners-up—two runners-up in each category and level—are awarded a transcript notation
2. Best in each category and level—awarded a transcript notation and publication in the undergraduate academic writing journal, *Afficio*
3. Best in each category—awarded a cash prize of \$100.00
4. Best overall paper from all levels and categories—awarded a cash prize of \$300.00

Students may only submit one paper from both the Fall and Winter semesters in either Humanities, Social Science, Science, or Business.

Papers must be

- Written by an *undergraduate* student
- Written entirely by the student making the submission (group assignments are not eligible)
- From either Fall 2016 or Winter 2017 courses
- Accompanied by the original assignment description from the course
- Accompanied by the submission form, signed by the instructor of the course
- Submitted as a clean hardcopy (with name removed), as well as an electronic Word file.
- Submitted by Monday, May 1, 2017.

Students must agree to participate in the publishing process to be published.

Students may submit a paper from any course from September 2016 to April 2017; e.g., a student in Science may submit an ENGL 1205 paper.

### Adjudication Procedure

- A panel consisting of the writing centre director and faculty members from corresponding departments adjudicates competition.
- Papers are adjudicated anonymously.
- The panel may declare no winner in a category, if it is determined that no submissions in that category meet award criteria.

### If you have any questions, please contact:

Brian Hotson  
Director, Writing Centre  
Burke 115  
491-6201  
[brian.hotson@smu.ca](mailto:brian.hotson@smu.ca)

## **Criteria for adjudication of the Saint Mary's Academic Writing Awards, 2017**

Winning papers are those that achieve the highest clarity of writing. Each paper will be evaluated according to the expectations and conventions of each discipline; however, each must adhere to the following criteria:

Demonstrates overall superior writing:

- Clear and elegant communication of simple and complex ideas;
- Solid grasp of specialized terminology within the discipline;
- Clearly and easily defined terms;
- Excellent use of English grammar and punctuation conventions.

Demonstrates an excellent grasp of the conventions of the assignment (e.g., essay, report):

- Clear thesis/purpose statement, discussion, and conclusion(s);
- Appropriate, logical and clear use of transitions, sections, and paragraphs;
- Elements (e.g., title page, table of contents, figures, tables, appendices, etc.) are superior examples of the conventions of the discipline;
- Fulfills course/assignment requirements (including specific instructions).

Components are excellent examples of academic work:

- High quality of arguments/discussions;
- Complexity or depth of ideas is demonstrated as related to course level and discipline.

Where research is a feature, it is smoothly integrated and presented:

- Clear presentation and acknowledgement of others' ideas within the structure of the student's own ideas;
- Use of supporting evidence in formulating arguments and demonstrating proofs;
- Elegant use of quotations, paraphrases, and referencing;
- Clear and consistent documentation in a recognized style.

## Saint Mary's University Academic Writing Awards Application, 2017

This form must be accompanied by the original assignment description from the course and be signed by the instructor of the course. Submissions must be a clean hardcopy (with name removed), as well as an electronic Word file.

Applications must be submitted no later than **Monday, May 1, 2017**.

*Please print clearly*

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

A Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Paper: \_\_\_\_\_

Course code: \_\_\_\_\_

Expected credit hours completed as of April 30, 2017 \_\_\_\_\_

*For Psychology and Geography papers, indicate appropriate category: Social Science  or Science*

I have attached the original assignment description

Course instructor: \_\_\_\_\_

Course instructor signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*(NOTE: Instructors may provide permission via e-mail to [brian.hotson@smu.ca](mailto:brian.hotson@smu.ca))*

By signing, I agree that my submission follows the Saint Mary's Academic Writing Awards Guidelines, as well as that of the Saint Mary's University policies regarding academic dishonesty. I further agree that I allow the publication of my submission in the undergraduate academic writing journal, *Afficio*.

Applicant signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Internal Use Only:**

**CODE #:** \_\_\_\_\_

Bring your submission(s) and completed application form in person to **Writing Centre, Burke 115**. Please remember to present your student card.