

Shelomo Osman Memorial Student Awards 2018-19

Guidelines for FIRST-YEAR Graduate Students

Sponsored by:



A Community of Students and Entry-level Clinical Social Workers

\$2,000 in Osman Awards

Two cash prizes of \$1,000 will be awarded to first-year master's social work students who submit a winning paper which recounts the process of a field-placement intervention. Winning papers will be published online. Entrants must be members of EPICCC (\$35 fee). The program is named for the late Shel Osman, MSW, BCD, of Los Angeles, California, third president of EPICCC's sister organization, the American Board of Examiners in Clinical Social Work. This national competition is judged by faculty, practitioners, and by directors and staff of EPICCC. **Deadline extended to May 4, 2019.**

A Winning Paper

The author of a winning paper will address the following:

- **Follow the guidelines closely**
- One of your field-placement (practicum) interventions, tracking its development from start to finish and presenting a case which broadened your professional development
- High academic quality including logical structure, fluid transitions, effective sub-headings, thoughtful paragraphs, and familiarity with current clinical literature
- Include assessment, diagnosis, selection of theory, treatment plan, intervention (values and methods), and use of supervision.

Components of A Winning Paper

Organize your paper around the following indicators:

Context. Introduce yourself (use the personal “I”) and sketch your background and your client’s. Describe the practice context/ecosystem. Discuss 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. In detail, discuss the development of an alliance with the client. Make it lively and engaging. How was it achieved? Was it? 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-psychosocial Assessment. Bio. Psycho. Social. All three must be addressed. Assess the 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 descriptions.

Selection of Theory. There is no single best theory for a given intervention. Discuss the following: which theories you considered to guide the intervention and why; and which theory or theories you applied. 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 right 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 your supervisor assisted or informed your choices through the intervention. When relevant, show how you discussed issues 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 the results of the intervention on the client; describe positives and negatives for the client and impacts of clinical social work perspective; discuss what you might have done differently.

Formatting (mandatory)

1. Cover page: title of paper, author's name, home address and phone number, school, school address, faculty sponsor and field liaison's names and phone numbers, list WORD COUNT (not over 3,000) and total number of pages including reference pages.
2. Abstract page (150 words or fewer): title of the paper, abstract of content **omitting any reference to author or school**—no personal info here.
3. Body of paper (3,000 words maximum): double-spaced; 12-point typeface; margins of one inch or more; sub-heads as appropriate; word count does not include references, tables, appendices.
4. References & Citations; TEN separate references or more. Place citations within the body text and list references at the end. See examples below.
5. Pages: number them, and place a running head (abbrev. version of title) at upper right corner of **each page**.

Editing

Proper nouns must be disguised for confidentiality reasons.

Persons: Replace all names (yours too) with a letter of the alphabet or a relationship title (Mother, Friend).

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

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:

- Signatures of both parties and affirmation that both support your paper
- Title of the paper
- Confirmation that paper is based on a first-year field placement
- Confirmation that you are in good academic standing, and scheduled to graduate in 2020.

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

Examples of References/Citations

References are to be listed at the end alphabetically by author surname. Here are examples (you may also use American Psychological Association format):

- Doe, J. (2005) Dreams Revealed. *The Ego-Psychology Journal*, 14, (pp. 1217)
- 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. 4062) Fictional Press: New York

Citations appear within the body of the paper. Here are some examples:

- Ego-psychology is helpful in analyzing G's dreams (Jones, 2005).
- Jones (2007) states, "the ego-psychology perspective can be helpful in analyzing dreams" (pp. 60-62), and I found it to be true in my work with G.
- Analysis of dreams from an ego-psychology perspective may aid in interpreting underlying issues (Jones, 1999; Brown, 2008).

Submitting Your Paper

Deadline is **April 6, 2019**. Early submissions are encouraged. **All of the paper (cover page through reference list) must be in one document.** Send paper by email attachment (MS Word only) to abe@abecsw.org (subject: Osman Student Awards). or submit at <http://epiccsocialwork.org/education/scholarships>.

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).

Checklist

Are you sure that your paper and sponsor letters meet the Osman 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 EPICC?
- 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) 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?
- Have you attached your application letter and your sponsors' letters?
- Is your paper in MS Word with all parts in a single document file?
- Have you added abe@abecsw.org to your "allowed senders" list on your email?
- Have you compared your paper with this Checklist and noted that in your cover email?
- Does your email include the required information?

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