2020 Research Paper Competition

The Excellence in Highway Safety Data Award Encourages Undergraduate and Graduate Students to Use Roadway Data to Research a Safety Topic and Prepare for a Career in Highway Safety.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is pleased to announce the Excellence in Highway Safety Data Award, part of the Highway Data Analysis Excellence Awards Program, which is designed to encourage university students to use Highway Safety Information System (HSIS) data to investigate a topic that advances highway safety and to develop a paper to document the original research.

Award details

The Excellence in Highway Safety Data Award's goal is to encourage university students to use HSIS data with the intent of introducing potential future highway safety professionals to good quality safety data, the application of appropriate research methods to derive recommendations, and the practice of using data to make decisions.

Eligibility and guidelines

The Excellence in Highway Safety Data Award research paper competition is open to undergraduate and graduate students in degree-granting programs that support highway safety, including, but not limited to, engineering, planning, statistics, psychology, and economics.

Current graduate and undergraduate students are encouraged to develop papers for the competition based on their use of HSIS data for class projects and/or for graduate thesis and dissertation projects. Individuals who have graduated from a program within 6 months prior to the submission date (i.e., September 1, 2019–March 1, 2020) are also eligible, if the paper is based on work conducted as part of the program.

The following requirements must be met by all applicants and submissions for the 2020 Award:

Eligibility – Applicant(s) must be enrolled as a graduate or undergraduate student in the 2019-2020 academic year or have graduated from a university located in the United States during the 2019-2020 academic year, or have graduated from such a program within 6 months (i.e., September 1, 2019–March 1, 2020).

Topic – Submitted papers must use HSIS data to investigate a topic that advances highway safety. Analysis must be conducted on data requested and acquired* from HSIS (*www.hsis-info.org/datarequest.cfm*). While not mandatory, applicants are encouraged to use other data sources, such as but not limited to data from other States or localities, Second Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP2), Naturalistic Driving Study (NDS), Roadway Information Database (RID), Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS), in support of the primary analysis using HSIS data.

Word count – The length of each paper must be 2,500–5,000 words, including the abstract, text, references, and tables. Each table counts as 250 words. If 4 tables are submitted, the abstract, text, and references may total no more than 4,000 words. Papers not meeting this requirement may be rejected without review.

Original research – For authors who have submitted papers to and received awards for previous competitions, HSIS expects that 2020 papers contain new, original material. If papers build on previous work and/or previously requested HSIS datasets, the submitted papers should offer significant new information. All 2020 papers should contain at least 50 percent new, original content, and the remaining 50 percent should not be verbatim to previously

published work and/or a manuscript previously submitted to the HSIS paper competition.

Individual or group work – Submissions by individual students or groups of students will be considered. Teams, however, must define 1 lead student and contributing students for the project. (Prizes reflect this requirement.) Faculty can participate in an advisory role but cannot be coauthors on the paper.

Award prizes

	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Cash Prize Winning authors will receive cash prize (1st place: $1,000; 2nd place: $500; 3rd place: $250 United States dollars).	$1,000	$500	$250
Recognition at the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) 2020 Annual Meeting and Exhibit (August 9–12, 2020, New Orleans, LA). All authors will be acknowledged and receive a plaque.	X	X	X
Registration for the 2020 ITE Annual Meeting and Exhibit will be provided to the lead author only.	X	X	X
Lodging (2 nights) will be provided for the lead author to attend the 2020 ITE Annual Meeting and Exhibit.	X	X	
Roundtrip, domestic airfare will be provided for the lead author only to attend the 2020 ITE Annual Meeting and Exhibit.	X		
Paper will be published in the ITE Journal and/or on the HSIS website.	X		

All prizes, including travel reimbursements, are subject to FHWA rules, regulations, and approval at time of award.

Submission details and deadline

Visit *www.hsisinfo.org/award* for complete submission details.

— Papers due: March 1, 2020, 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time —

Note: The turnaround time for requested HSIS data, www.hsisinfo.org/datarequest.cfm, is normally less than 2 weeks; however, time needed to conduct analysis of this data varies per project. Please be sure to plan accordingly and in advance of the paper submission deadline.

The Highway Safety Information System (HSIS) is a safety database that contains crash, roadway inventory, and traffic volume data for a select group of agencies. The participating States of California, Illinois, Maine, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, and Washington and the city of Charlotte were selected based on the quality of their data, the range of data available, and their ability to merge the data from various files. The HSIS database also contains historic data from Michigan and Utah. The HSIS databass is used by FHWA staff, contractors, university researchers, and others to study current highway safety issues, direct research efforts, and evaluate the effectiveness of crash countermeasures.