



Ohio Council of
Criminal Justice Education

Guidelines for OCCJE Annual Awards, 4/6/2026

1) Student Awards: Student awards of cash (\$100-200) are given annually at the Spring Research Conference scheduled for April 6, 2026. **The first** of these student awards is for “**Best Paper**”. Submit an electronic copy of the paper by March 27, 2026 to J-DeLeeuw@onu.edu. **The second** type of student award is for the **top criminal justice students** in the state of Ohio or who are students at an OCCJE-member institution in the following categories: **graduate student, baccalaureate student, and associate degree student**. In order for criminal justice students to be nominated, they should have demonstrated outstanding academic ability and involvement and leadership in professional, community, and/or campus related activities. Students must be eligible for graduation during the current academic year. In addition, the following must be submitted:

1. Resume
2. Three support letters (at least one each from the academic arena and one from the professional-practitioner arena)
3. Reference letter which includes the following information about the nominee: personality characteristics such as reliability, honesty, and maturity; peer interactions; assessment of professional potential in the field of criminal justice; and a brief summary of life experiences including personal responsibilities.

2) Educator-Academician Award: In order for persons to be nominated in this category, they should have made significant contributions, measured by any of the following:

1. public contribution of major importance in the criminal justice field and/or
2. a major contribution to the development of a criminal justice program beyond the home institution and/or
3. major involvement in national development of criminal justice education

3) Professional-Practitioner Award: In order for persons to be nominated in this category, they should have distinguished themselves as leaders in the professional field of criminal justice measured by any combination of the following:

1. leadership in the criminal justice field recognized by practitioners and academicians alike and/or
2. involvement in contributions to criminal justice practice having an importance beyond the local area.

4) Service Award: In order for persons to be nominated in this category, they should have a record of continuous long-term contribution in criminal justice in the state, regional, or national organizations. Nominees must be members of OCCJE to be eligible for this award.

Deadline for all nominations and letters of reference: **March 27, 2026**

Email: **Joe DeLeeuw**, OCCJE Research Conf host, at J-DeLeeuw@onu.edu