

American Correctional Association's Student Poster Session

**138th Congress of Corrections
New Orleans
Sunday, August 10, 2008**

Join students and corrections professionals
from across the nation for:

- ✓ Dynamic workshops by national experts
 - ✓ Facility tours
 - ✓ Social events
- ✓ Networking opportunities with potential employers

Frequently Asked Questions about ACA's Student Poster Session

Who is ACA? The American Correctional Association (ACA) is a professional membership organization for correctional and juvenile justice practitioners. ACA offers a variety of opportunities for professional development including certification programs, regional training programs, self-instruction courses, and national conferences. At each of their Conferences, ACA sponsors a Student Poster Session and other student-oriented activities that are designed to develop the next generation of correctional and juvenile justice professionals. If you would like more information about ACA, please visit their website at www.aca.org.

What is a Poster Session? A Poster Session provides a friendly, informal environment for students interested in presenting a paper. For the purpose of the session, the student must summarize the paper into a graphic and textual format that is reader friendly and **can be posted on a three panel science board** (which the student is to provide). The poster is then displayed on a table or easel in a conference room for conference attendees to review. Each student stands by their poster and answers questions about their research.

Who is eligible for participation? Any graduate or undergraduate student in Criminal Justice and related disciplines (Sociology, Psychology, Corrections, Juvenile Justice, Social Work, etc.) **whose paper focuses on an issue in the corrections or juvenile justice field.**

What information should appear in the poster? Both conceptual and empirical papers representing a *student's original work* are appropriate. Each poster should include the following information: 1) Title of paper; 2) Student's name, university affiliation, and contact information; 3) the thesis, or purpose of the paper, 4) Research methods 5) Key findings, and 6) Conclusions. Posters should include graphs and charts to depict any statistics reported, and bulleted text to convey the main points and conclusions. The student can then supplement this information orally, during their conversations with conference attendees. **A 3-panel science board is recommended for the poster.** (For instructions and tips on preparing a conference poster, see www.mitacs.math.ca/AC2003/index.php?section=poster and www.psichi.org/conventions/.)

What are the submission procedures? You must send an **email notification** of your intent to participate in the poster session by **June 15, 2008**. This **email notification** should include an abstract describing your proposed paper. The **complete paper** must be submitted by **July 31, 2008**, as an attachment to an email to lxhutchinson@ualr.edu. You will receive an email confirmation of the receipt of your paper; if not, please contact Dr. Hutchinson at (501) 683-7664. You are not required to submit the poster, or its content, prior to the actual poster session in New Orleans, LA.

How will my entry be judged? The ACA Student Affairs Committee will select people from ACA's membership to judge the Student Poster Session. Each judge will be provided with a copy of the students' papers prior to the conference. During the poster session, the judges will meet individually with each student to discuss their paper and conclusions. The written and oral components of the competition will be judged jointly based on 1) the clarity and organization of thoughts; 2) knowledge of topic; 3) the theoretical and/or methodological basis of the paper; and 4) strength of conclusions. 1st and 2nd place will be awarded at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. All participants will receive a certificate of participation and **the winners of each category will be published in ACA's Conference Proceedings.**

What is the cost? You must attend the Conference to participate in the Student Poster Session. In the interest of promoting student involvement, ACA has approved a reduced rate for students. To take advantage of this rate, please contact Ms. Jen Bechtel (1-800-222-5646, ext. 0102) as all those registrations **MUST** go through her office to mark the special rate. Students interested in sharing hotel costs with other participants should contact Dr. Hutchinson for further information.