



William Elliott, Director
Joint Doctoral Program in Social Work and Social Science
1080 S. University, Room B631 • Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1106

ssw.docoffice@umich.edu
Telephone (734) 763-5768

TO: Relevant Students and Faculty
FROM: The Supervising Committee
RE: Henry J. Meyer Scholarship Awards Competition
DATE: August 13, 2025

PURPOSE

The Henry J. Meyer Scholarship Award was established by alumni and friends to honor the original and long-time director of the Doctoral Program, Henry J. Meyer, under whose leadership the Program was founded to be the first doctoral program in Social Work to integrate fully the intensive study of social work and a social science discipline. The purpose of the scholarship is twofold: a) to support and honor students in the Doctoral Program in Social Work and Social Science whose written work exemplifies the goals of the Program in relation to the integration of social work and social science; and b) to encourage students to prepare such work for possible publication or conference presentation.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING THE PAPERS

The major criterion for judging a paper is the extent to which it makes an original contribution to empirical or theoretical literature in a manner that integrates social work and social science. Such integration may involve the application of social science theory or methods to a social work problem, the clarification or challenging of theoretical or methodological issues in social science from a social work perspective, or other types of linkages.

The review committee will evaluate your paper based on the following points:

- **What is the significance of this research and how does it address the gaps in the literature?**
- **Is there a clear research question?**
- **Are the methods and analysis appropriate for answering this question?**
- **Does the paper have a clear empirical and theoretical contribution?**

Applications will not be considered without the following information:

- **How does your paper make an original contribution to empirical or theoretical literature in a manner that integrates social work and social science (up to 1 page)?**
- **What are the research/theory/practice/policy implications (all that apply) of your paper (up to 1 page)?**
- **If awarded how would you spend the funds and how will these funds impact your research agenda, your field of research, your population of interest, and/or policy (all that apply) (up to 1 page)?**

ELIGIBLE PAPERS

Eligible papers will be stand-alone or self-contained papers that meet all of the following requirements:

- Submitted by a student(s) currently active and in good standing in the Doctoral Program in Social Work and Social Science, and prepared by that student(s) while in the Doctoral Program.
- Prepared in a standard format for a social work or a social science journal, double-spaced, and using a 12 point font.
- No more than **12,000** words in length, including footnotes and no more than 10 pages of references, tables and figures. Please include a word count on your paper that is no more than 12,000 words. If the paper is over **12,000** words, it will not be accepted for review.
- Incorporate material from social work/social welfare domains as well as from social science.

Papers that, in the majority opinion of the supervisory committee, are not stand-alone efforts and that fail to satisfy any one of the forgoing conditions will be returned to the student(s) and not adjudicated in the determining vote of the competition. If the paper is co-authored, you must turn in a statement (paragraph to one-page in length) describing your contributions to the paper. This statement needs to be signed by you and your co-author(s) if it is not being submitted as a jointly authored submission (i.e., for the purpose of splitting the award with the co-author who must also be a joint PhD student).

Papers may be published or unpublished. In addition, they may be either sole-authored or jointly-authored. Students submitting a jointly-authored paper will share equally any award resulting from a winning paper. Students may not be the author or co-author of more than one paper submitted.

NATURE OF THE AWARD

Generally the Supervisory Committee makes only one award. However, it may occasionally make an award to more than one paper and divide the award amount to reflect the Committee's evaluation of the most deserving submissions. The Committee reserves the right to recommend no award in a given year should it conclude that submissions are not of acceptable quality. The total amount available for distribution is \$24,000.

APPLICATION AND EVALUATION PROCESS

The competition for the Scholarship Award will be announced to all active students in the Doctoral Program in Social Work and Social Science and to faculty in social work and in the associated social science departments. The deadline for the submission of papers to the Doctoral Office is 5:00pm on **Wednesday, September 17, 2025**. All papers must be submitted electronically to ssw.docoffice@umich.edu

The Supervising Committee will act as the review committee. Members will be provided copies of papers without the student names and will independently review, rate, **and provide brief written comments on each submission, taking account of the award criteria**. Final decisions will be made by the Supervisory Committee as a whole, based on a majority vote. The award winner(s) will be announced by November, and is expected to make a special presentation of their paper in early May at the Doctoral Celebration and attend the SSW Awards Ceremony during winter term.

Students are eligible to receive the Henry Meyer Award as well as the Curtis Award or the Kellogg Award (and this may occur in the same year).