

Information on the OCCJE Student Scholar Program

OCCJE = Ohio Council of Criminal Justice Education

Executive Summary:

This document describes the development of an OCCJE Student Scholar program. OCCJE serves as the tree for Student Scholar branches growing throughout the Ohio area from schools that meet the criteria specified below and apply. The two-fold purpose of the OCCJE Student Scholar program is to: 1) provide a local and flexible mechanism for schools in the Ohio area to advance criminal justice education and 2) recognize significant efforts by students interested in criminal justice.

1) School Benefits: why should a school have a Student Scholar branch?

- a) It bestows to schools the ability to acknowledge their students' fine criminal justice education-related performance in a local, flexible, and low-cost way.
- b) It grants access to a local network of criminal justice professionals through OCCJE.
- c) It presents an opportunity for its students and faculty to publish in OCCJE's online peer-reviewed academic journal, *Criminal Justice Praxis*.
- d) It elevates student success.
- e) It provides access to OCCJE's annual fall Career Fair.
- f) It gives its students and faculty the chance to participate in OCCJE's annual spring Research Conference and Award Ceremony (at this event students, faculty, and practitioners present research and "Outstanding Student", "Best Student Paper", "Outstanding Practitioner", "Outstanding Educator", and "Outstanding Service" are awarded).
- g) It affords schools a group of student ambassadors to be leveraged.

2) Student Benefits: why should students become leaves of a Student Scholar branch?

- a) It showcases fine criminal justice education endeavors needed for student portfolios.
- b) It prepares students for additional criminal justice education and/or a career.
- c) It creates a means by which students can take part in criminal justice education and career enhancing activities (see "a-g" in #1 above).
- d) It is free to become a student member of a Student Scholar branch.

3) Process: how does a school grow a Student Scholar branch? The school must...

- a) have a Student Scholar advisor who is a faculty member at the school;
- b) complete a Student Scholar application (form available on the OCCJE website, <http://www.occje.org>, via email, or through snail-mail);
- c) be a paid institutional member of OCCJE (\$125 for an academic year—note that if a school is already an institutional member of OCCJE there are no additional dues, having a Student Scholar branch is a perk of OCCJE institutional membership);
- c) follow a set of Student Scholar by-laws that spells out, at minimum, three things: mission, officers (President, Vice-President, Treasurer) & election procedure, and membership eligibility—a "by-laws template" is on the occje.org website; and
- e) send OCCJE a one-page annual report synopsis of its Student Scholar activities.

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4) Eligibility: who can be admitted into a Student Scholar branch?

- a) Membership is open to students of any class rank (first year, sophomore, junior, senior, graduate student) with interest in criminal justice education to enhance their career and have either:
 - an overall Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale **or**
 - two worthy letters of recommendation from faculty or employers deemed appropriate by the school's Student Scholar Advisor.
- b) Students must maintain at least a 3.0 GPA or contribute significantly to the Student Scholar branch as determined by the school's Student Scholar Advisor in order to remain in the school's OCCJE Student Scholar branch.

5) Next Steps: what happens after a Student Scholar branch opens? Student Scholar branches should then...

- a) take advantage of OCCJE resources and events;
- b) select their first class of student members and appoint temporary committee for "c";
- c) adopt and revise as necessary, their Student Scholar by-laws available from the template on the occje.org website;
- d) have elections for Student Scholar student officers;
- e) apply to their respective school student government bodies for the establishment of a formal student organization for its Student Scholar branch;
- f) raise funds for its Student Scholar activities;
- g) continue to enjoy and further the criminal justice educational interests of its members;
- h) send OCCJE a one-page annual report that summarizes its Student Scholar activities.

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