

ACJS Doctoral Summit

Call for Participants 2026

The Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences would like to invite up to 40 advanced doctoral students from accredited doctoral programs to participate in the ACJS Doctoral Summit during the 2026 annual meeting. The conference will be held March 3rd to March 7th in Philadelphia, PA.

Scholarship

Students selected to participate in the Summit will be awarded a scholarship that includes the conference registration fee, a printed research poster, one meal, and hotel lodging with an assigned, same-sex roommate from another university for three nights (Wednesday March 3, Thursday March 4, and Friday March 5). Students who successfully complete all of the requirements will receive a certificate of completion and official recognition as a Doctoral Fellow of ACJS by the Academy.

Eligibility Conditions

Advanced doctoral students with a minimum 3.5 GPA, or equivalent, are encouraged to apply. Advanced doctoral students are those who are done with classes, have taken their qualifying exams (or their program's equivalent progress marker), or have completed their prospectus. Potential applicants do not have to meet all three criteria to be considered eligible, but they should have made substantial progress toward the degree. Students must submit both the online form and application packet to be considered. Those who have previously been awarded are not eligible. Students must be willing to share a room with another same-sex student from a different university. Roommates will be assigned by ACJS; scholarship recipients may not select their own roommates. Candidates who are unable or unwilling to share a room with another same-sex student from a different University are not eligible for the scholarship.

Scholarship Requirements and Expectations

1. Participants must complete 8 hours and 45 minutes of professional development training, plus attend the ACJS DSS Orientation & Research Symposium, the Presidential Address, and Debriefing Dinner for another 4 hours and 15 minutes of participation time.
2. Students will present a research poster at the Orientation & Research Symposium. Poster costs are covered by the Doctoral Summit scholarship.
3. Participants will prepare for the professional development training sessions by completing several short readings prior to the Summit. The professional development training will be covered in six required sessions and one additional session of the participants choosing:

Required Sessions

- Juggling Work-Life Balance
- Managing Stress and Maintaining Sanity
- Navigating the Job Market 1 & 2
- Identity-Based Barriers in Academia 1 & 2

Options for Additional Sessions

- Navigating the Politics of Research
- Careers Outside of Academia
- Tips for Junior Faculty Members
- Tips for Completing the Dissertation

- Academia Beyond Borders
 - Audience-Driven Research Communication
 - EQ: What's Your Communication Style?
4. A scholarship recipient may only miss *one* 75-minute required session because s/he is presenting research at another scheduled panel, and s/he is the first-author of that paper. The session must then be made up by attending another optional session so that the total time in Doctoral Summit sessions equates to 13 hours. Students who have more than one scheduling conflict with Summit events will be excluded from participating. The scholarship will be rescinded and offered to another student. Recipients **must** notify the Dr. Button of any schedule conflicts when completing the Scholarship Agreement and Acceptance Form.
 5. Students who are selected to participate must complete the Scholarship Agreement and Acceptance Form by December 30, register for the conference, using the promo code (TBD), by January 15, and upload their research poster file by February 10. Those who fail to complete these tasks will be excluded from any Summit benefits and participation in closed sessions.
 6. The scholarship recipient must either join a Section or volunteer to serve on one of the Academy's standing committees and/or Section committees in the year following the Summit to demonstrate their investment in the Academy.

Application Materials and Submission Deadline

Applicants may self-nominate and should submit their own application package. It is *not* required that graduate program directors nominate candidates for the scholarship. There is no limit on the number of students who may apply from each program. In addition to the ACJS Doctoral Summit [online application](#), the following materials should be submitted in order as one pdf file to Dr. Deeanna Button at deeanna.button@stockton.edu by **October 1 2025**. Files should be saved as last name, first initial (e.g., Button, D.). Please look for a confirmation of receipt within 48 business hours.

- Cover letter of no more than 500 words
- One letter of recommendation
- Current curriculum vitae
- Current official or unofficial transcript

Scholarship Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed by the ACJS Doctoral Summit organizers. Each applicant will receive a separate score for their cover letter, recommendation letter, and curriculum vitae. Applicants with the highest scores will be invited to participate. The following criteria will be used in the scoring process:

- Minimum 3.5 GPA, or equivalent, requirement
- Cover letter (500-word limit):
 - General indication of desire to participate in the Summit;
 - Discussion of how the Summit may help with professional development, networking, teaching, service, and/or research goals;
 - Indication of the participant's interest in joining a Section or volunteering to serve on one of the Academy's standing committees and/or Section committees.

- Recommendation letter from a current faculty member with a generally positive review and favorable review of the student's academic, scholarship, and/or leadership achievements.

Important Dates*

May 1	First Call for Applications
June 1	Second Call for Applications
September 1	Third Call for Applications
September 15	Final Call for Applications
October 1	Deadline to Apply
November 1	Preliminary Notification of Award
November 15	Preliminary Acceptance of Award
December 15	Deadline to Accept Award
	Deadline to Submit Research Symposium Abstract
January 5	Letter of Acceptance Sent
	Final Roster Announced
	Roommates Assigned and Pre-Summit Tasks Sent
February 1	Deadline to Register for the Conference
	Deadline to Upload Research Poster File
February 23	Final Confirmation of Attendance Due
March 3-7	Philadelphia, PA

*Dates are approximate and may shift depending on when the preliminary and final ACJS program is published.

Please contact **Deeanna Button** at deeanna.button@stockton.edu with any questions.