



Doctoral Dissertation Award

The Doctoral Dissertation Award is given annually in recognition of two exemplary dissertations, one in the field of education and one in the field of business.

This award is dedicated to Dr. Kaveh Shamsa, a scholar who was passionate about his work, his students, and the perpetual pursuit of rigor and perfection.

The following criteria will be used to evaluate nominees' dissertations for this award:

- Rigorous and Systematic Execution of Research Methods
- High Level of Critical Thought and Maturity Evidenced in Selection of Methods and Analytic Approach
- Advanced Interpretation of Data/Findings
- Strong Implications for the Fields of Business or Educational Research, Policy, and/or Practice
- Originality and Unique Contribution to the Study of Business or Education

SELECTION PROCESS

The standing committee will evaluate each submission through asynchronous scoring using the Doctoral Dissertation Award rubric. After identifying the top candidates, the committee will collaborate to choose the final two dissertations to recognize.

AWARD COMMITTEE

The Doctoral Dissertation Award is evaluated by a standing committee of three judges from the COB and COE. Committee members are recommended by the College Deans and serve a 1-year term.

AWARD TIMELINE

- Nominations will be open until one month prior to commencement. *Due to the number of submissions and the review process, no late submissions will be accepted; as such, nominators are encouraged to submit their nominations well in advance of this deadline.*
- Nominators and nominees will be informed of decisions after they have been made.
- The recipient(s) will be recognized during the graduation ceremony.

TO SUBMIT A NOMINATION

Nominations for the Doctoral Dissertation Award must be submitted by the Chair of the nominee. Chairs may nominate up to two (2) students per year. The dissertation must have been successfully defended and officially deposited to Westcliff University's repository prior to receipt of the award. *Dissertations previously nominated will not be reconsidered.*

All nominations and corresponding materials must be submitted via online submission ([Doctoral Dissertation Award Submission Form](#)). *E-mail and/or hard copy submissions will not be accepted.*