2023 Excellence in Highway Safety Data

The Excellence in Highway Safety Data Award encourages undergraduate and graduate students to use roadway data to research a safety topic and prepare for a career in highway safety.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is pleased to announce the Excellence in Highway Safety Data Award, which is part of the Highway Data Analysis Excellence Awards Program. The award is designed to encourage university students to use Highway Safety Information System (HSIS) data to investigate a topic that advances highway safety and to develop a paper to document their original research.

Award Details

The Excellence in Highway Safety Data Award encourages university students and potential future highway safety professional to use HSIS data. The goal is to introduce students to using high-quality safety data and appropriate research methods to derive recommendations, and the practice of using data to make decisions.

Eligibility and Guidelines

The Excellence in Highway Safety Data Award research paper competition is open to undergraduate and graduate students in degree-granting programs that support highway safety, including, but not limited to, engineering, planning, statistics, psychology, and economics.

Current graduate and undergraduate students are encouraged to develop papers for the competition based on their use of HSIS data for class projects or for their graduate theses and dissertation projects. Individuals who have graduated from a program within 6 months prior to the submission date (i.e., September 1, 2022–March 1, 2023) are also eligible, if the paper is based on work conducted as part of the program.

The following requirements must be met by all applicants and submissions for the 2023 Award:

Eligibility—Applicant(s) must be enrolled as a graduate or undergraduate student in the 2022–2023 academic year or have graduated from a university located in the United States during the 2022–2023 academic year or have graduated from such a program within 6 months.

Topic—In their submitted papers, applicants must use HSIS data, which includes data from the States of California, Illinois, Maine, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, Washington, and the city of Charlotte, NC, to investigate a topic that advances highway safety. Analysis must be conducted on data requested and acquired* from HSIS. *While not mandatory, applicants are encouraged to consider integrating other data sources with HSIS data if applicable to their research question, as long as HSIS data plays a central role in the analysis. Please see the website for more information and direct links to potential datasets that could be used in combination with HSIS data.*

Word count—The length of each paper must be 2,500–5,000 words, including the abstract, text, references, and tables. Each table counts as 250 words. If 4 tables are submitted, the abstract, text, and references may total no more than 4,000 words. Papers not meeting this requirement may be rejected without review.

Original research—For authors who have submitted papers to, and received awards for, previous competitions, HSIS expects that 2023 papers contain new, original material. If papers build on previous work and/or previously requested HSIS datasets, the submitted papers should offer significant, new information. All 2023 papers should contain at least 50 percent

*Interested participants can initiate an HSIS data request from www.hsisinfo.org/data.cfm.

HSIS

HIGHWAY SAFETY INFORMATION SYSTEM

An Analysis Tool for Making Informed Safety Decisions

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

new, original content, and the remaining 50 percent should not be verbatim to previously published work and/or a manuscript previously submitted to the HSIS paper competition.

Individual or group work—Submissions by individual students or groups of students will be considered. Teams, however, must define one lead student and contributing students for the project (prizes reflect this requirement). Faculty can participate in an advisory role but cannot be coauthors on the paper.

Evaluation Criteria

Visit www.hsisinfo.org/award.cfm for complete evaluation criteria details.

Award Prizes

Prize Details	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
A cash prize will be awarded to each lead author of a winning team (1st place: $1,000; 2nd place: $500; 3rd place: $250 U.S.).	$1,000	$500	$250
Authors will be recognized at the ITE 2023 Annual Meeting and Exhibition (August 13–August 16, 2023, Portland, OR). All authors will be acknowledged, and each lead author of a winning team will receive a plaque.	X	X	X
Registration for the 2023 ITE Annual Meeting and Exhibition will be provided to the lead author of each winning team only.	X	X	X
Lodging (2 nights) will be provided for the lead authors of the 1st and 2nd place winning teams to attend the 2023 ITE Annual Meeting and Exhibition.	X	X	
Roundtrip, domestic airfare will be provided for the lead author of the 1st Place winning team to attend the 2023 ITE Annual Meeting and Exhibition.	X		
Publication of the 1st place winning paper will be in the September 2023 *ITE Journal* and/or on the HSIS website.	X		

All prizes, including travel reimbursements, are subject to FHWA rules, regulations, and approval at the time of the award.

Submission Details and Deadline

Visit www.hsisinfo.org/award.cfm for complete submission details.

— Papers due: March 1, 2023, 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time —

__Note:__ The turnaround time for requested HSIS data, www.hsisinfo.org/datarequest.cfm, is normally less than 2 weeks; however, the time needed to conduct an analysis of these data varies per project. Please be sure to plan accordingly and in advance of the paper submission deadline.

The HSIS is a safety database that contains crash, roadway inventory, and traffic volume data for a select group of agencies. The participating States of California, Illinois, Maine, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, and Washington, and the city of Charlotte, were selected based on the quality of their data, the range of data available, and their ability to merge the data from various files. The HSIS database also contains historic data from Michigan and Utah. The HSIS database is used by FHWA staff, contractors, university researchers, and others to study current highway safety issues, direct research efforts, and evaluate the effectiveness of crash countermeasures.