

2015 IAEM Global Student Council

Essay Contest



In emergency management, the age old debate of experience versus education is particularly important given the profession and study of emergency management grew from the practitioner side and the newness of academic programs in this area. Choosing to pursue specialized knowledge and hands on experience through practical experience or seeking academic knowledge through a university program is sometimes difficult to decide for a person entering the profession. There has even been a term coined, “pracademic”, for those who choose to pursue both the practical and academic paths.

In an effort to raise awareness of the choices that new emergency managers must make when choosing their career paths and to better understand those choices, the Global Student Council is launching an essay contest to assess the understanding that students have of this issue. Refer to the information and requirements of the contest in the attached document.

Both an undergraduate and graduate winner will be selected by a panel of academics, practitioners and a member of the IAEM Global Student Council. Each winner will be provided with a complimentary conference registration and hotel costs for the 2015 IAEM Annual Conference in Clark County, Nevada. Additionally, both winning submissions will be published in the IAEM Bulletin.

2015 IAEM-Global Student Council Essay Contest

Information and Requirements

In emergency management, the age old debate of experience versus education is particularly important given the profession and study of emergency management grew from the practitioner side and the newness of academic programs in this area. Choosing to pursue specialized knowledge and hands on experience through practical experience or seeking academic knowledge through a university program is sometimes difficult to decide for a person entering the profession. There has even been a term coined, “pracademic”, for those who choose to pursue both the practical and academic paths.

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Essay Question

Write an essay comparing the pros and cons of beginning and continuing a career in emergency management by gaining practical experience and on the job training experience or pursuing an academic degree as a foundation. Include such considerations as knowledge gained, potential for being hired, long-term benefits, and how ultimate career goals might impact choices. Finally, include a determination of which path is best or explain why such a determination is not possible.

Selection of Winners and Prize

Submissions will be read and assessed by a five member panel of academics, practitioners and a member of the IAEM Global Student Council.

One undergraduate and one graduate paper will be selected as a winner. The prize for each will consist of complimentary conference registration and hotel costs for the 2015 IAEM Annual Conference in Clark County, Nevada. Additionally, both winning submissions will be published in the IAEM Bulletin.

Essay Rules and Requirements

1. Submissions are due July 1, 2015 at 16:59hrs UTC. Submissions are to be sent to laemgsc@gmail.com. Please save your essay file using the following naming format: lastname_gscessay_date of submission. A notification that your submission has been accepted will be sent within 24 hours of submission being received at this address.
2. Students will include a cover page that lists their name, school, email address, telephone number, and whether they are a graduate or undergraduate student. This information should only be included on the cover page and nowhere else in the paper as the cover page will be removed for assessment purposes.
3. Complete APA or MLA formatting including use of proper referencing is required. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and is against the IAEM Code of Ethics. Papers are subject to verification with turnitin.com or other plagiarism software.
4. Submissions should be between 1200-2000 words (in APA format)
5. Whether or not a submission follows the above instructions will be reflected in scoring.