



OPPORTUNITY MATTERS:

Journal of Access and Opportunity in Education

Submission Guidelines
Updated August 2019

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Guidelines:

This new iteration of *Opportunity Matters* will serve as a full-fledged peer-reviewed journal where scholars, practitioners, students, parents, and community leaders involved with educational opportunity programs can share their research, reports, ideas, and creative works. A joint project of the Research, Evaluation, and Data Use Community of Practice of the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) and the Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education, the journal will be published online twice a year (March & September) and all content will be freely available to interested parties. Authors retain the copyright of their content. Forthcoming journal content may be posted online prior to official publication and between issues in the discussion boards of the Research, Evaluation, and Data Use Community of Practice of the COE.

The *Opportunity Matters* journal is designed to provide a forum for the dissemination of research on educational opportunity programs and the voices of the “at-promise” populations which they serve – low-income, first generation, and racial/ethnic minority college students, as well as students with disabilities and veterans. It is our hope that the manuscripts and creative works published in *Opportunity Matters* will influence educational policy and professional practice by shedding light on the challenges, promise, practice, and effectiveness of educational opportunity programs from the perspective of practitioners and practitioner-scholars, as well as the lived experiences and testimonies of the students, parents, and community leaders served by these programs.

Over time, both these student populations and the programs that serve them have been marginalized in larger mainstream publications. In *Opportunity Matters*, we seek to create a space grounded in the experiences and knowledge-base of practitioners and students *for* practitioners and students. Papers and creative works submitted for publication will be subject to peer-review by the Editorial Board, which will include both scholars and practitioners. We aim to make the journal and its content accessible to everyone involved in matters of access and opportunity in education.

¹ Center for Academic Access and Opportunity, Suffolk University

The following are some areas of interest for the journal:

1. The demographic profile and needs of students served by educational opportunity programs, especially targeted populations or subgroups (e.g., immigrant students, out-of-school youth, racial/ethnic minority males, rural students)
2. Factors (e.g., academic, social, economic) that influence college access and success for low-income, first generation college students, as well as, veterans and students with disabilities
3. Programs and practices that improve college attendance and completion rates for underrepresented populations
4. Methods used to evaluate the effectiveness and outcomes of educational opportunity Programs
5. The impact of federal and state policy on education opportunity and the delivery of services to target populations
6. The process, practice, and benefits (as well as challenges) of developing and sustaining partnerships between school districts and institutions of higher education as they relate to issues of access and opportunity

Submission Requirements

All submissions should include at least two documents:

1. A title page: include a title, running head, authors, affiliations, contact information, and at least 5 keywords for the manuscript. The title page should also clearly indicate what submission category you would like your paper to be considered for. See categories below.
2. The body of the manuscript: this should include the abstract and body text, at a minimum. The same file may include figures, appendices, tables, etc. – or these may be submitted as separate files. All manuscripts should be blinded for review. This means, do not include any information that might allow reviewers to identify who the author is.

All submissions must adhere to the APA publication manual, and include abstracts of no more than 120 words. Papers should be double-spaced with 1-inch margins all around and written in a default, 12pt font (we recommend Times New Roman, Calibri, or Arial). Please submit your work in either Microsoft Office Word file format, Apple Pages file format, or regular text files.

Journal submissions should be sent to **Chelsea Murray** at chelsea.murray@coenet.org

Submission Categories:

The journal will have three submission categories: (1) Articles; (2) Our Voices; and (3) Narratives/Creative Works. The following are short descriptions of each submission category:

Articles:

30 double-spaced pages maximum, not including references, figures and tables

- Rigorous, innovative, and critical scholarship that aligns with the mission and/or the areas of interest for the journal, as well as, conceptual review papers that are integrative and timely
- All modes of inquiry welcome – quantitative, qualitative, mixed methods, new methods

Our Voices:

Approximately 8-15 double spaced pages, not including references, figures, and tables

- Descriptions of policies, procedures, and practices in particular programs
- Data-driven research reports and case studies
- Critical reflections with a theoretical framework
- Communications of evaluation methods and strategies for program assessment
- Letters and reactions to policies/actions and/or position papers
- Solicited commentaries/interviews with important figures in the community/field
- Evaluation of materials that may be of importance to other practitioners/students
- Other work from individuals who have important knowledge, research, or tools that may be useful to those interested in issues of access and opportunity

Narratives/Creative Works:

Approximately 5-10 double-spaced pages

- Alternative formats as forms of expression from our community, alumni, current students, teachers, parents, practitioners, etc. that may not fit the “academic standard”
- These include but are not limited to: Personal narratives, confessionals, short stories, artwork, drama, humor, poetry, or other creative work that includes a reflexive component
- All submissions to this category should relate in some way to one of the areas of interest for the journal, or connect directly to larger issues of diversity, equity, access, and/or opportunity in higher education.

All “Articles” and “Our Voices” submissions must include a section on implications and/or recommendations for practice. For Narratives/Creative Works this is not a requirements, but welcome its inclusion in the submissions.

Editorial Board

We are currently looking for scholars and practitioners interested in joining the Opportunity Matters editorial board. As an editorial board member, you would be responsible for assisting in the review of manuscripts and creative works submitted to the journal, as well as, making

suggestions to the overall focus of the journal and proposing topics for special issues of the journal moving forward. If you are interested in joining our editorial board, please send a brief history of your involvement with educational opportunity programs, any areas of expertise, and any other relevant information to **Abraham E. Peña-Talamantes** at aptalamantes@suffolk.edu
We look forward to hearing from you!

Call for Papers and Creative Works

We ask that you encourage some of your students and/or alumni to look into submitting some of their work to the journal. By the same token, if there are any manuscripts, opinion pieces, or shorter works you would be interested in submitting to our journal, please send it our way.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Abe & Mika
Editors, Opportunity Matters