

# GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORS

## JOURNAL OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (JCTE)

The *Journal of Career and Technical Education (JCTE)* is a non-profit, refereed national publication of Omicron Tau Theta, the national, graduate honorary society of career and technical education. Manuscripts submitted for consideration by JCTE should focus on career and technical education philosophy, theory, or practice. Comprehensive reviews of literature and reports of research and methodology will be considered. All articles should relate to current issues, cite appropriate literature, and have direct implications for career and technical educators. It is intended that JCTE serve as a forum for discussion of philosophy, theory, practice, and issues in career and technical education. Manuscripts submitted for review should not have been published or be under current consideration for publication by other journals.

### PUBLICATION STYLE

The *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, Fifth Edition (2001), is the standard of style for JCTE with the following exceptions—place figures and tables in the appropriate place in the manuscript and use italics for titles in the reference list instead of underlining. Manuscripts not adhering to that style manual will be returned to the authors without review.

### SUBMITTING MANUSCRIPTS

Manuscripts accepted for publication normally may not exceed 20 pages of printed, double-spaced text, including title page, abstract page, tables, figures, and references. Margins should be 1" all around and the font used must be no smaller than Times New Roman 12-point for the purposes of determining page length. **Use the line numbering feature of the word processor to number each line of the manuscript.** Authors must use the following guidelines to submit manuscripts for review:

Mail manuscripts to the editor (hard copies only). **Electronic submissions are no longer accepted.** Submit a package containing the following:

1. a separate **title page** with the manuscript title and the author(s), institution(s), complete address(es), telephone number(s), and e-mail address(es);
2. five copies of a separate **abstract** of the manuscript, succinctly describing its contents in no more than 960 characters and spaces (150 words);
3. **five** double-spaced **copies of the manuscript** without the author's name or affiliation; and
4. a 3-1/2" diskette containing a single word processor file consisting of the title page, abstract, and manuscript, in that order. Diskettes become the property of *JCTE* and will not be returned. The diskette file must be in the MS Windows platform. The file should be in either WordPerfect (preferred) or MS Word although most common word processors can be translated. Use of Rich Text Format is also acceptable.

### REVIEW AND PUBLICATION

The Journal is published twice a year, spring (about June 1st for the hard copy) and fall (about December 1st for the hard copy). All accepted articles will be published in both traditional hard copy and in the electronic journal, which is currently available at the following case sensitive URL:

<http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/JCTE/>

The review process for the *Journal of Career and Technical Education* normally requires six weeks to three months for the first round. The entire review process from submission to final acceptance or rejection may require much longer. The Editor will notify you as each stage in the review process is completed. The decision of the reviewers will be either to:

1. **Accept** (publish as submitted, very minor editorial revisions may be needed—this is very rare for initial submissions)
2. **Accept Conditionally**, with minor revisions (revisions are reviewed by editor, not resubmitted to review panel)
3. **Accept Conditionally with Major Revisions** (revised manuscript will be sent back to the same reviewers for reconsideration)
4. **Reject but Invite Major Revision and Re-submission** (fundamental changes are needed, and the revised manuscript will go back to the same reviewers for reconsideration—this is a very common decision on the initial review and should not be considered as a final rejection)
5. **Reject** the manuscript for *JCTE* (the manuscript will not be considered again).

The manuscript review process for *JCTE* is a “blind” peer review in that the reviewers are not informed of the identity of the author(s) and the author(s) are not informed of the identities of the reviewers. The reviewers of the manuscript are recognized scholars with appropriate professional and educational preparation and are selected for their specific expertise relative to the topic of the manuscript being reviewed. At least one of four reviewers on each manuscript must be a member of the *JCTE* Editorial Board. The final acceptance rate for *JCTE* is only about one-third. Authors who persevere through requested revisions are generally the authors whose manuscripts eventually become articles in selective, refereed journals such as *JCTE*.

### FIGURES AND TABLES

Tables and figures should provide only information essential to understanding the article. Authors should **avoid reporting the same information in both text and tables**. In the preparation of tables and figures, authors should use APA guidelines for format and include the tables and figures in text where they should appear. Tables and figures are to be prepared as a part of the word processing file. Tables **must** be developed in columns **using the table-formatting feature in the word processor** so that they will translate to HTML. Each item in a table should be placed in an individual cell. Do not use tabs to format tables because they will not translate properly. Tables and figures will not be published on oversized or foldout sheets.

### BOOK REVIEWS/THEMATIC ISSUES

Book reviews will also be considered for publication in the *JCTE*. Persons interested in publication of a book review should contact the Editor-Elect (see inside front cover, page 2). A thematic issue of the *JCTE* may be published at least once every two years. Themes for upcoming issues will be announced in both the hard copy and electronic journal.