



2021 Alpha Chi Student Collaborative Research Project Competition

“...and Justice for All.”

Each year Alpha Chi invites collaborative research projects from student researchers. Each campus team will develop a focused project, depending on the majors and research interests of the team members, that allows for both secondary and original research. Projects should be focused on research and the acquisition of new research, not merely a review of literature. The most competitive projects are those with clearly divergent disciplines that integrate around a common goal rather than piecing separate projects together—collaborative rather than segmented—with the work effort shared in a balanced way across the team’s membership. The paper needs to be scholarly and delivered in a common voice. During the presentation, extemporaneous speaking is preferred, as the judges and audience will have an opportunity to ask questions.

\$5,000 First Place Prize (to be divided and used as team decides)

\$2,500 Second Place Prize (given if number and quality of projects justify such)

Competition Overview

Each team will identify a problem or formulate a hypothesis and conduct the necessary research. A research report of no more than 15 pages (not including title page and citations) will be submitted by March 1, 2021. The title page must identify each team member, their classification and discipline, as well as a research overview describing how the team planned, divided, and conducted its collaborative project. A multidisciplinary panel of judges will evaluate the research report, a 12-minute oral presentation with a 3-minute question and answer period during the 2021 convention, and a digital poster.

Here are a few possibilities illustrating the diversity of projects that could emerge:

- History, English, health sciences, and political science combine to look at how mental health patients have been treated throughout the centuries, both in real life and in fiction, and identifying mental health care disparities based on sex, race, and socio-economic factors, with recommendations for greater mental health justice.
- Combining architecture, interior design, and education to research, develop, and propose the most effective ways to retrofit and remodel older classrooms for students with disabilities that limit their accessibility to full participation in traditional classroom structures.
- Spanish, psychology, and political science project to contrast the rights of South and Central American refugees to seek safe haven with the traditional powers of governments to control their borders, making predictions about how particular Supreme Court members might rule in an upcoming case based on their past rulings.
- Criminal justice, business, sociology, and psychology majors examine ways in which the American criminal legal system has a disproportionate impact on different groups, such as people of color, those with limited means, and those with mental illness or substance use disorders, and identify policies or strategies for eliminating such disparities moving forward.
- Combining theater/drama, history, and sociology to examine the economic and sociological effects of upscale theaters on a community, including gentrification and the displacement of longtime members of the local neighborhood.
- Environmental science, marketing, and geology or geography combine to examine the impact of tourism on a particular scenic area or landscape, weighing the immediate economic benefit to the local community with the commercialization of nature and potential loss of that biome space for future generations.

Specific Guidelines

- Each chapter may submit only one project to this competition.
- Each team must consist of 3-5 Alpha Chi student members, representing at least 3 different academic departments. The team composition must be at least 2/3 undergraduates during the fall semester. Each member’s part in the research project should be documented and included in the written report. While each team is encouraged to identify a faculty mentor who is dedicated to the team’s success, student members must serve as the principal researchers and writers.
- **To enter the competition, a student team representative must email the formal project title and an abstract to office@alphachihonor.org no later than November 2.** This email must identify the Alpha Chi members on the team, their classifications, email addresses, and the academic fields they represent, and identify the faculty mentor, if it is someone other than the chapter sponsor.
- Each team will have at least one student member present the project results to a panel of judges during the Spring 2021 national convention.
- **The competition consists of three elements: (1) a written research report (double-spaced) of no more than 15 pages to be emailed by March 1 to office@alphachihonor.org; (2) a 12-minute oral convention presentation followed by a 3-minute live question and answer period; and (3) a digital poster (submitted as a .pdf) to accompany the oral presentation. For visibility and ease of reference only, no more than six PowerPoint slides of enlarged sections of the poster can be presented during the pre-recorded presentation.**
- **The exact nature and scheduling of the presentation has been left vague since the 2021 convention in Birmingham has been moved to a fully online format due to the ongoing health pandemic. Please do not let this deter your team.**
- Contact Executive Director Lara Noah at Inoah@alphachihonor.org with questions or concerns.