

Alpha Chi's 2026 National Convention

Alpha Chi's **next biennial national convention** will take place March 12-14 in sunny Orlando, Florida, at the Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista at Disney Springs!



Delegates attending the convention will have the opportunity to experience:

- 100+ [Member presentations](#) with \$200 presentation prizes awarded in 25+ disciplines
- Development sessions for student members (such as applying to graduate school, interview skills, resume writing, and Power Skills)
- [Keynote speaker Jeff Barnes](#), author of [The Wisdom of Walt](#)
- Development sessions for chapter advisors
- [Collaborative Research Competition](#)
- Regional elections
- Networking & social events
- The [Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista](#), with easy access to Disney Springs and the Disney theme parks

Registration Fees

Early Bird Registration Fee (ends 1/20/26)

\$100 for: Current advisors & student members

\$250 for: Alumni members & alumni advisors

Regular Registration Fee (ends 2/9/26)

\$150 for: Current advisors & student members

\$300 for: Alumni members & alumni advisors

Convention Deadlines

- Jan. 20** Last day to register at early bird rate
Last day for members to submit presentations
- Feb. 2** Last day to reserve rooms at the Hilton
Last day to reserve Shared Doubles rooms with the National Office
- Feb. 9** Last day to register for convention
- Feb. 22** All convention fees due
No refunds given after this date

Precise timing is subject to adjustment based on the number of members registering to present.

Tentative Convention Schedule



Thursday, March 12

- 3:00 p.m. Chapter Delegation Check-In
- 5:00 p.m. Welcome Activity by the Convention Committee
- 6:00 p.m. Opening **Dinner** & Keynote Speaker [Dr. Jeffrey A. Barnes](#) aka “Dr. Disneyland”
- 8:00 p.m. Regional Mixers
- 9:00 p.m. Student-Led Social Activity from the Convention Committee

Friday, March 13

- 8:00 a.m. Regional **Breakfasts** & Business Meetings (regional elections)
- 9:00 a.m. National Business Meeting
 - § Regional Election Results (announced by regional officers)
 - § Installation of New National Council Members
 - § Recognition of Outgoing National Council Members
 - § Advisor Service Honors
- 10:10 a.m. Member Presentations Session I (4 rooms; 16 presentations)
- 11:40 a.m. Member Presentations Session II (4 rooms; 16 presentations)
- 12:45 p.m. **Lunch** with Honors
 - 2026 Distinguished Alumni Award Presentation to Dr. Thomas Varkey, AZ Alpha Alumnus
- 2:00 p.m. Service Activity with No Child Hungry
- 4:00 p.m. Collaborative Research Presentations (3 teams)
- 5:00 p.m. *Dinner OYO in [Disney Springs](#)! Take your name badge for discounts at participating locations.*

Saturday, March 14

- 8:00 a.m. Member Presentations Session III (5 rooms; 20 presentations)
- 9:30 a.m. **Breakfast** & Development Session I
 - § For Members: *The Psychology of Procrastination, Pressure, and Sustainable Time Management*, led by Dr. Breanna Naegeli, Grand Canyon University
 - § For Advisors: *Mental Health, Burnout, and Resilience: Surviving the Academic Environment*, led by Dr. Tanner Babb, Huntington University
- 10:30 a.m. Member Presentations Session IV (5 rooms; 20 presentations)
- 12:00 p.m. Development Session II
 - § For Members: *Power Skills*, led by Dr. Justine Pas, Lindenwood University
 - § For Advisors: *Honors Programs & Alpha Chi*, led by Dr. April Dye, Carson-Newman University

1:00 p.m.

Closing Ceremonies

- § National Scholarship Winners
- § Collaborative Research Prizes
- § Convention Presentation Prizes
- § President's Cup Winner
- § Conference Adjournment

2:00 p.m.

Grab some snacks to go on your way out to explore Orlando!

Hilton Hotel Details & Room Reservations

Location/Address

[Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista](#), 1751 Hotel Plaza Blvd., Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830

Hotel check-in is at 4 p.m.; check-out is at 11 a.m.

Hotel Amenities

- Two heated outdoor pools
- Fitness center
- Restaurants & marketplace on-site
- Activities on-site (arcade, golf, etc.)
- Discounted theme park tickets and park early entry
- FedEx on-site
- Located just steps away from Disney Springs via the pedestrian skybridge. Disney Springs contains 150+ restaurants, shops, and entertainment venues.

Room Rate: \$205 per night for 1-4 people in a king or double-queen room

PLUS

Resort Fee (required): \$25 per night, and each room's resort fee includes:

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Wireless internet in guest room | • DVDNow Movie Rentals |
| • Two 16 oz Starbucks coffees daily in the Marketplace | • Shuttle to/from Walt Disney World theme parks |
| • Two 16.9 oz bottles of water daily in the Marketplace | • \$5 discount on one attraction ticket sold at the concierge desk |

Total per night room cost with fees & taxes = \$257.60

Making Room Reservations

While Alpha Chi's room rate and block are available through Feb. 2, don't wait to book your rooms. Be safe and reserve adequate rooms as soon as you have an idea of what you'll need. You can always call the hotel later to release a room and/or provide specific guest details.

- [Click here to reserve rooms online](#) or call (407) 827-4000 and mention you're with the Alpha Chi conference
- Make student Shared Doubles reservations directly with the National Office (see Shared Doubles page).

Parking & Ground Transportation to/from Airport

- The hotel's self-parking rate is \$35/car/night. Valet parking is available for \$45/car/night.
- 20 to 25-minute ride in light-to-moderate traffic.

National Travel & Housing Grants for Convention Participation



Alpha Chi wants each chapter to experience the 2026 National Convention in Orlando. The goal of Alpha Chi leadership is to encourage every chapter to bring at least one student member and one chapter advisor to experience an Alpha Chi convention. Please carefully review the information below. Contact kholmes@alphachihonor.org or 800-477-4225 with any questions. Below we list the various ways that AX financially supports chapters in participation.

NEW: For a chapter advisor to receive a travel and/or housing grant, the chapter's delegation must include at least one student member.

Travel Grants — Up to \$600 per chapter

For **one** voting advisor delegate, **one** voting student delegate, and up to **two** additional student presenters,* chapters can receive travel grants as follows:

Driving (\$300 max)

For chapters **driving** to the convention: the Travel Grant will be \$75 per grantable delegate above **OR** roundtrip mileage for one vehicle at \$.50/mile, whichever is lower.

Flying (\$600 max)

For chapters **flying** to the convention, the Travel Grant per delegate listed above will be as follows:

- \$200 each for one voting advisor delegate and one voting student delegate
- \$100 each for up to two additional student delegates making presentations

For chapters flying from Hawaii, an extra \$200 per voting advisor and voting student may be requested.

To receive more than three travel grants in total, at least one student presenter in your delegation must be attending their first Alpha Chi convention.

* A travel-granted student presenter must present their own poster or timed presentation. If your chapter sends 2+ students to make 1 regular presentation, only one of those students may receive the travel grant. If a student plays a significant role in leading a chapter or member development session, that may count as a separate presentation; contact the National Office for approval.

Housing Grants — Up to \$720 per chapter **

For stays on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night, each chapter can receive up to \$120 per night for:

One **advisor room** for up to 3 nights (\$360 max.)

This room can be shared with other delegates with no added charge.

One **student delegate room** containing 2+ delegates each for up to 3 nights (\$360 max.)

If a delegation has only one student delegate needing a room, they should be booked into a Shared Doubles room which will count as half a room and be eligible for a grant of \$60 per night.

** Since Region I chapters are still eligible for regional financial support, they are only eligible for national Travel Grants. Region I Secretary-Treasurer Dennis Hall (dennis.hall@angelo.edu) will email Region I advisors with details about this.

To be eligible for national grants, each granted delegate must:

- be an official chapter advisor or a current student member still enrolled at their institution and be registered for the convention by the deadline
- show up to give their presentation (if a student presenter)
- participate in development sessions
- attend the entire convention
- lodge at the official convention hotel (The use of online reservation services such as Expedia will exclude you from Alpha Chi's contracted room block, so hotel reservations should be made directly with the hotel or, in case of the Shared Doubles, directly with Alpha Chi.)

To receive these convention grants, a chapter will complete and return the official grant request form by 4/13/26. Following the convention, request forms will be reviewed for accuracy and checks mailed within 30 days of the convention.

Sample University Financing Scenario

For example, a delegation from a university is flying to the 2026 convention in Orlando, Florida. They are bringing two female advisors and three students: one female who is not presenting, and two males who are making individual presentations. They will be staying Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. This university can maximize the grants received with the following arrangement:

Travel Grants (Flying)

1. The voting advisor will qualify for **\$200**
2. The voting student will qualify for **\$200**. In this scenario, the non-presenting student should be assigned as the voting student delegate in order to qualify for a travel grant.
3. The two additional presenters will each qualify for **\$100**.
4. **This arrangement means the chapter can receive the maximum travel grant of \$600.**

Housing Grants

1. The two female advisors can share a room. This room will qualify for \$120/night for three nights, for a total of **\$360**.
2. The two male students will share a room. This room will qualify for \$120/night for three nights, for a total of **\$360**.
3. The female student may either share with the female advisors or utilize the Shared Doubles program. In either case, no additional housing grant will be given.
4. **This arrangement means the chapter can receive the maximum housing grant of \$720.**

Total grants received by this sample university: \$1,320



Guaranteed Shared Doubles Housing Program

Convention housing is more cost-effective when you can fill hotel rooms, but if your delegation can't fill a room with 2-4 delegates on its own, let the national office help with its room-sharing program.

The national office will facilitate shared doubles this year at the rate of \$128.80 per person per night.

A Shared Double differs from a room reservation you make yourself because the national office works directly with the hotel on these. Having them pre-paid allows Alpha Chi to guarantee your chapter pays for only one-half of the room—even if we don't find another student to share/pay for the other half of the room or if the assigned roommate fails to attend the convention. At the hotel, these students will check in with their photo ID and confirmation number and should not have to provide a credit card for incidentals (because no incidental charges are to be made), as Alpha Chi is guaranteeing these rooms, in trust, for the convenience of your chapter.

Suppose your chapter is bringing 5 male undergraduates to the convention. Whether you fill 1 room with 4 males or 2 rooms with 2 males each, you'd still have 1 male without housing. If so, you can register him in a Shared Double during online registration by pre-paying his 1/2 of the room rate when you pay your convention registration fees. The national office will assign him to a room with another male undergrad from another college.

An advisor should NOT register a student in Shared Double housing unless the student has read and agreed to the following:

- 1) The national office will assign two undergrad members of the same gender to one non-smoking room with two queen-sized beds and reserves the right to make changes. (Male, female, or nonbinary must be selected during registration for Shared Doubles.)
- 2) Incidentals such as room service, toll calls, laundry service, movies, or games, etc., may NOT be charged to these rooms. If a charge appears, the student's chapter will be held responsible for reimbursing the national office (which may be handled by reducing the convention grants awarded to the chapter).
- 3) When checking in at the hotel, remind the desk agent that your reservation is for a shared "double-queen" room, and ask if your roommate has checked in. Get your own room key.
- 4) Room swapping is not allowed unless an Alpha Chi meeting planner (via AX Central) is consulted in advance.
- 5) Be courteous and accommodating. Do not invite anyone to your room unless you have permission from your roommate in advance.

The Hilton's check-in time is at 4 p.m., and check-out is at 11 a.m. Once a student is sure that no incidentals have been mistakenly charged to the room, they're ready to go. If for some reason there is a billing dispute or issue at check-in or check-out, ask the hotel staff to phone an AX meeting planner.

Generally speaking, graduate students and alumni may not be placed in the Shared Doubles program. Call the office if you have any questions.

Requests for refunds or changes to Shared Doubles will be accommodated through Feb. 22.

Faculty & Staff Development Opportunities

Alpha Chi's national conventions hold many opportunities for chapter advisors to grow their professional resume and experience while serving students. Here's how to remind your administrators of the institutional benefits of an experienced faculty and staff and how participating in our convention fosters that.

Build Your CV

- Serve on a judging team for a category of student presentations and together select the prize winner.
- Moderate a student presentation session with Q&A.
- Facilitate a topical roundtable discussion.
- Share your expertise by leading a chapter development workshop.
- Run for a regional or national leadership position.
- Lead an instructional session catered toward enriching members' soft skills.



Gain Professional Development

- Assist your students with travel and conference skills.
- Gain knowledge in topical roundtable discussions.
- Network with advisors and students from other colleges.
- Explore how to leverage AX and your role as advisor with your institution's administration.
- Learn how to maximize your chapter's influence by attending chapter development workshops.

Recharge & Build Relationships

"I've always come home [from a convention] recharged. I can get frustrated with the day-to-day business of teaching and academia. And sometimes I lose track of why I love what I do. A great way of getting that back front and center is to go to an Alpha Chi convention—because you're hanging out with the smartest students you're ever going to run into, you have faculty members that are interested and enthusiastic about learning and academic excellence, in a wonderful place and a wonderful hotel. What's not to like? I remember that's why I do this."

—Prof. Suzi Pundt, Chapter Advisor



Support Student Research & Creativity

"Facilitating student research is a passion for me; I think it's crucial that students see themselves as academic practitioners and that academic work is work that is part of society." **—Dr. Craig Nakashian, Chapter Advisor**

Member Presentations

Student presentations are a centerpiece of every Alpha Chi convention; in fact, this focus on students distinguishes us from other honor societies. We're also excited when our alumni members come to conventions and want to present as well. Here are a few benefits of presenting:



- Gain valuable presentation experience with a small, receptive audience of 20-30 people.
- Receive constructive feedback from faculty judges.
- Field questions from interested peers and faculty.
- Earn an excellent resume enhancement.

Deadline for Registering a Presentation: *January 20, 2026*

Alpha Chi's Professional Presenter Standards

- Wear business attire and behave professionally.
- Regardless of order, arrive before the start of the section to identify yourself to the Moderator.
- As a courtesy to your fellow presenters, we ask you remain present for your entire section.
- Be sure your presentation fits comfortably within the time limit. (*likely 12 minutes, followed by a mandatory 4-minute question/answer period*)
- These are presentations, not manuscript readings.
- Practice (preferably for an audience), so your presentation is smooth and audio-visuals well integrated. Most presentation rooms are small, and microphones aren't provided. Be prepared to speak clearly with good projection.
- Be prepared in case of technical problems; have a backup plan that will allow you to proceed if technology fails.

Presenter Preparation

- Convention presentation is not a required element of the Sledge/Benedict, Gaston/Nolle, or Pryor/Freeman/Organ national scholarship competitions. However, *regional* scholarships and prizes may have similar sounding names but different rules. Consult your region for its requirements.
- The total number of presenters per chapter isn't limited, but each student is limited to one presentation. If you're presenting on a Student Collaborative Research Project team, you may make one other regular presentation, but it must be in a different field or cover different material than your part in the collaborative project.
- You won't submit your entire presentation when you register—only your presentation title and a description designed to help our program director verify your proper field and optimize your program placement (that description will not be included in the program). Use proper title case and punctuation and select the most applicable discipline and presentation type.
- You'll also be asked for a 1-sentence "sales pitch" to advertise your presentation in an engaging way. If it is clear and concise, we hope to include those in the event app this year.
- The program director will contact you by phone or email if there are questions. **Please respond quickly to any communication from the national office regarding your program placement.**

Audio-Visual Equipment Provided by Alpha Chi

Each presentation room can be supplied with an LCD projector/screen package, a laptop, and an easel board for affixing a poster. A piano (or professional electronic piano/keyboard), music stand, and audio equipment can also be available in the room assigned for performing arts presentations.

Alpha Chi will contact registered presenters by email or phone 2-3 weeks before the convention with any last-minute details. Once the program is ready, an email notification will be sent to all delegates and the program posted on the conventions page at AlphaChiHonor.org.

Varieties of Presentations: Performance, Poster, PowerPoint

Performances: A good performance presentation should include a discussion of the academics and/or process behind the piece performed. Discussions of creative presentations should help non-specialists



understand the craft present in the work. These presenters may use PowerPoint, if so desired. Upon check-in at AX Central on Thursday, musicians, dancers, or other presenters who may need to practice/warm-up may arrange a practice time and place.

Posters: Students wishing to present a poster will do so as part of an oral presentation in a regular, timed slot on Friday or Saturday. During the intermission interval before a presentation, your poster may be affixed using binder clips

and removed from the easel board immediately after your presentation. Poster presenters may invite the audience to assemble around their poster if that is their preference. Remember that a poster is a visual communications tool. Since you will be presenting it live, do not include a great amount of small text, as you will be able to present the material orally as well. Posters should be 4' x 3' (landscape). [Poster Tips from Purdue University](#)



PowerPoint Presentations should be compatible with the most recent version of Microsoft PowerPoint and brought on USB drive. ***You must bring your presentation to the convention yourself on a USB drive. The national office will not be collecting and loading presentations this year.*** Most of your audience will be at least 10 feet away from the screen, so plan your fonts accordingly. Due to the tightly timed presentation schedule, we suggest you bring an extra copy of your media and a printed copy of your slides for your own use in case technical issues arise during your session.

Visual Art PowerPoints: Visual art presenters are asked to prepare a PowerPoint for presentation during a regular, timed presentation section this year. Include a description of each piece with its title, medium, dimensions (H" x W" x D"), and year created. We do not advise bringing your original artwork and cannot guarantee its safety or security.

Presentation Prizes

Each presenter is eligible for one of the endowed \$200 convention presentation prizes announced on the final day of the convention! See the list of prizes on the Convention Presentation Prize page along with the competition details.



Convention Presentation Prizes

Student and alumni members are encouraged to make a presentation of the work they are doing in their academic major. This year each presenter will be eligible for a **\$200 convention presentation prize** announced on the final day of the convention. Alpha Chi has been graciously supported in recent years by many friends and colleagues. Having these prizes adds a buzz of excitement to the convention's closing gala!

[Click here to learn about the wonderful people for whom these prizes are named!](#)

Much of the programming of Alpha Chi conventions is student members and alumni presenting scholarly and creative work in their own academic fields to multidisciplinary audiences of their peers and faculty advisors. In the span of two days, 100 or more members can present their work—many presenting on a national level for the first time. It's an invaluable experience and one that we're proud to claim sets Alpha Chi apart from many other honor societies.

For Undergraduate Presenters

To be eligible for these 30 discipline-specific prizes, presenters must be undergraduates in the current academic year. Alpha Chi will offer prizes of **\$200** each for what the judges consider the best in up to 30 undergraduate categories.

Note: a prize will only be awarded in a specific academic field if it has 3 or more undergraduate presentations. For those choosing a field that doesn't garner at least 3 presenters, a judging rubric will be completed and the numeric scores averaged. Then one prize, regardless of academic field, will be given for the undergraduate presenter with the highest score.

American History
American Literature
Anthropology & Sociology
Art/Music/Dance Research
British Literature
Business Management
Chemistry
Communication
Computer Science & Engineering
Contemporary Bioethical Issues
Creative Writing (fiction/non-fiction)
Creative Writing (poetry)
Economics
Education
Environmental Science

Exercise Science & Nutrition
Geology & Earth Sciences
Health Sciences
Mathematics
Molecular & Cellular Biology
Organismal & Ecological Biology
Performing Arts
Philosophy & Religion
Physics & Astronomy
Political Science
Psychology
Shakespeare
Visual Art (original)
World History
World Literature

If you need assistance knowing which category to select, feel free to contact your chapter advisor or the national office for guidance.

For Graduate Student and Alumni Presenters

We welcome and encourage your presentations and will award one overall prize for graduate student presenters and one overall prize for alumni presenters for qualifying presentations, regardless of academic field.

NOTE: Students presenting as part of a Student Collaborative Research Project team may also make a regular presentation of their own, but to be eligible for a prize that presentation must be in a different field or cover different material than their part in the collaborative project.

2026 Regional Leadership Opportunities

The following regional offices will need to be filled in March 2026, so please consider running for one of the open positions. It is a great way to make a significant contribution to the honor society while gaining service hours and a resume/vita enhancement! (student positions in **green**)



Region I

- President, 2026-28
- Vice President, 2026-28
- Secretary-Treasurer, 2026-30

Region II

- President, 2026-28
- Vice President, 2026-28
- **Student Representative**, 2026-28

Region III

- President, 2026-28
- Vice President, 2026-28

Region IV

- President, 2026-28
- Vice President, 2026-28
- **Student Representative**, 2026-28

Region V

- President, 2026-28
- Vice President, 2026-28
- Secretary-Treasurer, 2026-30

Region VI

- President, 2026-28
- Vice President, 2026-28
- Secretary-Treasurer (*to serve unfilled position through Spring 2028*)
- **Student Representative**, 2026-28

Region VII

- President, 2026-28
- Vice President, 2026-28

Roles of Regional Presidents & Vice Presidents

Article VIII of the Constitution provides the rules for regional elections and who qualifies to run, but here are the general duties:

The president shall:

- Be the chief executive officer of the region,
- Be a member of the regional executive committee,
- Supervise generally the operations of the region,
- Call and preside over the regional business meetings and the regional executive committee meetings,
- Appoint committees necessary to the functions of the region, and
- Carry out such other duties as may be necessary for the conduct of the business of the region.

The vice president shall:

- Function in the absence, death, resignation, or permanent disability of the president,
- Be a member of the regional executive committee,
- Assist, as directed by the president or the regional executive committee, in carrying out the business of the region, and
- With the advice of the regional executive committee plan any regional activities at the national convention.

Role of Regional Secretary-Treasurers

From the Constitution, Article VII, the secretary-treasurer shall:

- Be a member of the National Council,
- Furnish proper notice concerning the regional business meeting to the chapters in the region and the officers of the National Council,
- Keep the minutes of the proceedings of the regional business meeting & meetings of the regional executive committee, and furnish copies of the minutes to the chapters of the region and the officers of the National Council,
- Supervise the procedures for awarding the regional scholarships, if any are awarded, and
- Perform such other functions as may be necessary
- Only for Region I while a treasury remains:
 - o Receive and expend the revenue of the region and, with the advice and consent of the regional executive committee, invest idle funds of the region
 - o Make financial reports to the regional business meeting and to the president of the National Council.

Student Representatives

Like the secretary-treasurer of each region, student representatives serve a dual term on the National Council. Students bring an important viewpoint and skill set and should also know that as National Council members, they are full, voting members. **As Council members, the students elected will have in-person Convention and/or Council Meeting expenses reimbursed by Alpha Chi.**

Traits of a good candidate:

- Solid communication skills
- Interest in shared governance and developing leadership skills
- Undergraduate candidates preferred (it becomes challenging to meet Council duties after graduation)

Duties involve:

- Attending monthly Council zoom meetings and in-person meeting attendance in convention years
- Participation on two Alpha Chi committees that work throughout the year
- Prompt response to emails, participation in conference calls
- Service during a national convention as greeters, session moderators, or workshop facilitators

Interested?

- Consult your calendar and your faculty advisor to ensure you'll be able to attend the 2026 convention to be held March 12-14, 2026, in Orlando, Florida.
- Declare yourself a candidate to your region's president as soon as you decide.

Etiquette Guidelines & Delegate Code of Conduct

Delegate Code of Conduct

Alpha Chi is committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all delegates. Alpha Chi convention attendees, speakers, exhibitors, staff members, and all others are expected to abide by the Code of Conduct. Alpha Chi has zero tolerance for any form of discrimination or harassment by participants or staff. If you experience or witness any incidents of abuse, harassment, or other unacceptable behavior, please immediately contact Katie Holmes, Director of Operations (kholmes@alphachihonor.org) so that an appropriate action can be taken.

Alpha Chi reserves the right to take appropriate action in response to any incident violating these guidelines. This may include removal from the session, suspension of conference credentials, and possible prohibition of attendance at any future AX in-person or virtual events.

Unacceptable behavior includes:

- Discrimination or harassment in any form.
- Distribution of solicitations or promotional materials.
- Verbal or written abuse of any attendee, speaker, exhibitor, or AX staff member. Examples of abuse include, but are not limited to, verbal or written comments related to gender or gender expression, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, race, religion, or national origin.
- Intimidation, including threatening or stalking any attendee, speaker, exhibitor, or AX staff member.

Convention Etiquette Guidelines for Delegates 2026

To enhance everyone's convention experience, Alpha Chi encourages all attendees to observe the following rules of meeting etiquette, especially during student presentations. Remember, most of the students you'll meet this week are on the program.

All Attendees:

- Professional, business attire or business casual dress is appreciated during all indoor sessions apart from social events.
- While in session, please silence all electronic devices.
- Be a patient and pleasant audience member. When given the chance to offer feedback or ask a question, all delegates, whether advisor or student, should do so in a calm, respectful, positive, and constructive manner.
- Refrain from interrupting a student presentation already in progress. Enter and leave a presentation room only during the brief break between presentations. You may quietly leave at that time to get to a presentation in another room.
- Doors should remain closed during each presentation. While waiting outside meeting rooms or in the corridors, please remain quiet and courteous.

Timed Presentation Presenters:

- Regardless of your order in the section, arrive before the start of the section and identify yourself to the Section Moderator.
- As a courtesy to the other presenters in your section, we ask that you remain present for your entire section.
- Begin your presentation by clearly stating your name, your college, and your AX region.
- You must stay within the posted time for your presentation, or the moderator will stop you.
- Be prepared in case of technical problems with equipment; have a backup plan that will allow you to proceed if the technology fails.

Session Moderators:

- Make sure you know how many sessions you're moderating and/or judging.
- Arrive at the room early enough to meet your presenters to confirm their presence.
- Confirm the presence of both judges before the section begins.
- Use a timepiece such as a cell phone to keep the program on its timed schedule.
- If there's a gap in the program because of a no-show, please wait until the next scheduled presentation to keep to the schedule in the program.
- Present each student with their certificate of appreciation immediately after their presentation; do not hold them until the end of the entire session.
- Important: If there are no-shows leaving unclaimed presenter certificates, missing certificates, or certificates that need to be reprinted due to error, bring them in the envelope to AX Central after the session, noting the nature of the error. Reprints will be mailed directly to the presenter after the convention.

(rev. 9.2.2025)



Dr. Trisha Yarbrough Student Collaborative Research Project Competition

Call for Projects 2025-26

“Magic Through Collaboration: Reimagining the Impossible”

Alpha Chi's collaborative research theme this year is ***Magic Through Collaboration: Reimagining the Impossible***. Academic inquiry should move beyond the known and assumptions of what has been possible into new intellectual terrain, fearlessly reimagining areas in which hope for a solution has been lost. Alpha Chi encourages its members to explore beyond their own discipline as they work with other fields to make new discoveries or look at old ones in a new light. This sort of collaboration can lead to “magic” and open us to exciting possibilities through new research or new takes on old solutions.

Thus, Alpha Chi invites collaborative research projects from student researchers on this year's theme. Each team will develop a focused project that is relevant to the majors and research interests of the team members that contributes something original to a scholarly conversation. The element of “originality” could take several forms: the results of scientific experiments or surveys, viewing existing scholarship through a new lens, or adding a creative element to the research.



Who Benefits from Collaborative Research?

- **Your student researchers**—improving their critical thinking and interpersonal working skills
- **Campus chapters**—maximizing research and creative talents and promoting interdisciplinary collaboration
- **The academic community at large**—the resulting written report may become published in *Aletheia* which shares your peer-reviewed research with the world

Competitive projects are those with divergent disciplines integrating 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.

Below are some example projects that invite participants to fuse their unique expertise, challenging them to dream bigger, think bolder, and create something truly magical.

- Students from Psychology, Theater, and Computer Science build immersive virtual reality experiences that let users inhabit the world from the viewpoint of someone drastically different from themselves.
- Art majors, Film scholars, and Communications students could team up and look at the way past decades imagined the future. What can we learn about our own attempts to imagine the future by seeing what past thinkers (mis)imagined?
- Architecture, Social Anthropology, and Comparative Politics majors examine Singapore's public housing from a design, cultural, and governance lens and then contrast it with U.S. housing policies to understand how civic trust and design aesthetics shape perceptions of public housing.
- Criminal Justice, Neuroscience, and Philosophy majors investigate how insights into brain plasticity and empathy development can inform restorative justice programs. Can understanding neural rewiring support reentry frameworks that heal rather than punish?
- A team of students from Engineering, Music, and Physics create entirely new musical instruments that defy convention, perhaps resulting in a performance of sounds never heard before.

Awards & Distribution

\$5,000 First Place and **\$2,500 Second Place** (The second-place prize is awarded only when the number and quality of projects justify such.)

Each award will be split evenly between the Alpha Chi student team members after each member has submitted to the national office the documentation needed to claim their portion of the prize.

Collaborative Team Composition

- Each team must consist of 3-5 Alpha Chi student members representing at least 3 distinct academic disciplines or departments.
- A team's membership may be comprised of either one chapter's members OR of members from more than one chapter. However, a chapter may only be represented on one team per competition.
- Graduate student members are welcome to participate, but the team composition must be at least 2/3 undergraduate members during the Fall 2025 semester.
- Student members must serve as the principal researchers and writers, but the team is encouraged to identify a faculty mentor who is dedicated to the team's success.

Declaring Intention to Compete

- By **October 1, 2025**, one student team representative must complete the **Intention to Compete Form** (available soon) which will ask for the project's title, an abstract, and information on the team's composition.

Competition Elements

(1) Written Research Report

- 12-20 pages total (page count includes title page, citations, appendices, etc.)
- Double-spaced; 1" margins
- Title page must include each member's name, classification, discipline, part in the research project, and an overview describing how the team planned, divided, and conducted its collaborative project.
- Submit by email no later than **February 15** to office@alphachihonor.org.

(2) Live Presentation with Q&A

- 10-minute presentation followed by a 4- or 5-minute question and answer period (questions or comments from judges will have priority).
- Each team must have at least one student member presenting the project in person to a multidisciplinary panel of judges during the Spring 2026 national convention. If the team has only one student able to present in person, the national office will work with the team to see if including one other team member via Zoom might be possible.

(3) Printed Poster

- Dimensions: max. 3' high x 4' wide. This will accompany the oral presentation.
- Bring poster to Alpha Chi Central at check-in on **March 12** for display and judging prior to presentation.
- To enhance audience visibility, up to 10 visual slides of content from your poster may be shown during the presentation.

Review of Deadlines Prior to Live Presentation

1st Deadline: 10-01-2025 (declaration of team composition and working title/abstract)

2nd Deadline: 02-15-2026 (written report)

3rd Deadline: 03-12-2026 (printed poster)