



Dr. Trisha Yarbrough Student Collaborative Research Project Competition

Call for Projects 2022-23

Action for Our Atmosphere

Student Prizes: \$5,000 First Place Team and \$2,500 Second Place Team*

Climate change is impacting our world more dramatically each day. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's [2021 Annual Climate Report](#), the combined land and ocean temperature has increased at an average rate of 0.28 degrees Fahrenheit per decade since 1981: double what the average growth rate used to be. Additionally, it must be recognized that the changing climate disproportionately affects minorities and those living in poverty. It is time for creative solutions that consider the entire problem of climate change.

Therefore, Alpha Chi invites collaborative research projects from student researchers on this year's theme. Each campus 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.

Collaborative Research Benefits:

- **Your student researchers**—improving their critical thinking and social interaction skills;
- **Your campus**—maximizing research talent and promoting interdisciplinary collaboration; and
- **Our society**—resulting from robust creativity and research.

The most 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.

Some examples to get you started:

- Public Health, Environmental Science, and Risk Management students could study the projected costs of dealing with various environmental disasters affecting a minority ethnic group—along with the likely economic sacrifices of doing so for a particular nation-state or an impoverished region or geographic type (such as islands).
- Digital Media Art & Design, Environmental Science, Psychology, and Political Science majors study the effectiveness of environmental justice media campaigns on public policy implementation and individuals' attitudes and behaviors related to the environment.
- Recreational Science, Anthropology, and Civil Engineering majors could collaborate to explore Urban River Restoration Initiatives and how they could positively impact modern culture and the environment.
- Political Science, Physics, and Geology majors might do a study of how rising ocean waters and erosion are altering the position of rivers, eroding islands or mountain ranges. Since this problem also blurs markers used for national boundaries, how does that increase the likelihood of environmental refugees and the risk of international conflict.
- Literature, Art, Education, and Psychology majors might explore how the presence of environmentally focused public art or books affect children's thoughts and opinions related to conservation or climate control. They might also create music, dance, visual art, or theater works to try to draw attention to aspects of climate change or how to effectively respond or change.
- Education, Communication, Sociology, and Science students can team up to develop communication and education to Americans about the way that climate change affects people in other countries.
- Literature, Communication, and Environmental Science majors might look at post-apocalyptic writing and entertainment and the degree to which those futures have or are increasingly likely to become true.
- Psychology, Economics, Political Science, and Law majors might investigate the motives behind rising targeted assaults such as hate crimes, mass school shootings in America, and what could be done to mitigate or prevent future violence.
- Political Science, Humanities, and Economics majors study how the pandemic in a globalization age changed wealth distribution and what impacts it has for different groups of people.
- Sociology, Psychology, and Communication majors could discuss the properties of successful grass-roots activism and community organizing. Journalists could add the role of the media in influencing community efforts, and biologists might then explore how scientific communication can be improved to positively affect social changes. History majors could draw parallels to similar movements in other eras and how/why they were or were not successful.

**2nd place prize given only if number and quality of projects justify such.*

Collaborative Team Composition

- 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 distinct academic departments.
- The team composition must be at least 2/3 undergraduate members during the Fall 2022 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

- One student team representative must email the project title and an abstract to office@alphachihonor.org by **October 31, 2022**.
 - ✓ This email must also identify the Alpha Chi members on the team, their classifications, email addresses, the academic fields they represent, and the faculty mentor (can be an Alpha Chi chapter advisor or another faculty member).

Competition Elements

(1) Written Research Report

- 12-20 pages total (this includes title page, citations, appendices, etc.)
- Double-spaced; 1" margins
- Title page should include each member's 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 **March 1** to office@alphachihonor.org.

(2) Live Convention Presentation with Q&A

- 10-minute presentation followed by a 4-minute question and answer period
- Each team must have at least one student member presenting the project in person to a multidisciplinary panel of judges during the Spring 2023 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 30** 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

1st Deadline: **10-31-2022** (declaration of team composition and working title/abstract)

2nd Deadline: **03-01-2023** (written report)

3rd Deadline: **03-30-2023** (poster and presentation)

Award Distribution

Each award will be split evenly between the student team members after each member has submitted to the national office the documentation needed to claim the prize. If the team elects to share part of the award with their chapter and the office is informed of that before checks are mailed, the national office can accommodate that additional check.

Please contact Executive Director Lara Noah at Inoah@alphachihonor.org, if you have questions not addressed here.