



Student Collaborative Research Project Competition

Call for Projects 2021-22

“Next Century, New Era”

As Alpha Chi looks to its centennial in 2022, it is the perfect time to examine and reflect on the past and envision the future in “New Century, New Era.” Alpha Chi has survived a Dust Bowl, the Great Depression, a World War, and is still struggling through a global pandemic. What are the strategies that allow human institutions to struggle through adversity and change? How might Alpha Chi’s principles of Truth and Character be involved? Whether it be for honor societies, a certain discipline, or systems and institutions such as higher education, health care, policy-making, etc., there is much to reimagine for Alpha Chi, the nation, and the world.

Therefore, Alpha Chi again 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 demonstrates they are entering and contributing something original to a scholarly conversation. The original element could take several forms, including the results of scientific experiments or surveys, viewing existing scholarship through a new lens, or adding a creative element to the research.

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

Collaborative research will benefit:

- **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.

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

- *The Future of Honor Societies.* Education, computer, and history majors might team up to consider the origins and growth of such societies in the U.S. How will the growth of online learning and remote education challenge or reinvigorate such societies in the future? Throw in communications or marketing majors and see what happens.
- *How the Past Imagined the Future.* Art majors, film scholars, and communications students look at the way past decades imagined the future. What proved prophetic? What proved implausible? What can we learn about our own attempts to imagine the future by seeing what past thinkers (mis)imagined? Who is missing from these imaginings?
- *“The name of this Society shall be Alpha Chi, the initial letters of the Greek words ALETHEIA and CHARAKTER, meaning TRUTH and CHARACTER.”* Keeping these values in mind, what are the ethics of fake news and misinformation? Political science and international relations, communication, criminal justice, and sociology students can collaborate on interpreting case studies.
- *The Missing Story.* Analyze the way writing reimagines/reflects inclusivity and/or isolation from 1922 to today. Literature students can look at who is missing from stories and when/if/how folks get included, while a sociology/psychology partner might look at how minorities react, and a marketing and/or art student can examine messaging of book covers.
- *The Music and the Message.* Music majors can look at trends in popular music since 1922, collaborating with a historian and art and/or dance student to show impactful reactions to social events.
- *“You shall know the truth. . . .”* How we get our news has changed incredibly since 1922 when Alpha Chi was just beginning. What are these changes? Do they relay the truth? Computer/data science, business, broadcast journalism, and other students can get together to analyze advances and trends and offer suggestions for the future of news production and consumption.

*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 undergraduates during the Fall 2021 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.

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 2022 national convention. If the team has student members unable to attend the convention in person, the national office will work to see they are included virtually during the presentation itself.

(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 24** for display and judging prior to presentation.
- To enhance audience visibility only, up to six PowerPoint slides of content from your poster may be shown during the presentation.

Declaring Intention to Compete

- One student team representative must email the project title and an abstract to office@alphachihonor.org no later than **October 31, 2021**.
- This email must identify the Alpha Chi members on the team, their classifications, email addresses, the academic fields they represent, and the faculty mentor (can be chapter sponsor or another faculty member).

Deadline Review

1st Deadline: **10-31-2021** (declaration of team composition and working title/abstract)

2nd Deadline: **03-01-2022** (written report)

3rd Deadline: **03-24-2022** (poster and presentation)