



Dr. Trisha Yarbrough Student Collaborative Research Project Competition

Call for Projects 2024-25

“New Frontiers in Academia and Beyond”

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

Alpha Chi’s collaborative research competition theme this year is *New Frontiers in Academia and Beyond*. Academic inquiry should be about moving beyond the known and the familiar to journey into new intellectual terrain, fearlessly crossing boundaries. Our theme reflects that ideal, and Alpha Chi encourages its members to explore beyond their own discipline to work with other fields, so they can make new discoveries or look at old ones in a new light. That sort of collaboration opens up exciting possibilities not just in coursework, but in the professional and personal world outside college.

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.

Collaborative Research Benefits:

- **Your student researchers**—improving their critical thinking and social interaction skills;
- **Campus chapters**—maximizing research and creative talents 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 some examples of how students might combine different disciplines together to fashion an exciting and original topic:

- A pre-law student, a computer science major, and a creative writing student might look at copyright issues regarding computer-generated poetry, a new frontier the legal system has yet to define.
- A geography student, a STEM major, and an education major might create a project on the mapping of Pluto and discuss the best techniques to incorporate these new discoveries into the classroom in exciting ways.
- A music major, a history major, and a Spanish major might present on the way traditional Gallego music has crossed las *Fronteras* (the “frontiers” or borders) of first Galicia into Spain, then from Spain into Mexico, and then into the American Southwest.
- A biology major, a business major, and an environmental studies major might explore the mysteries of “dark oxygen” from rocks in the ocean floor, and how companies seeking to do undersea mining may be unearthing (or endangering?) the gas exchange system of the unexplored deep-sea ecosystem.
- An astronomy student, a physics student, and a graphic design student might combine their knowledge to explore how artists work with astronomers to create popular images of exoplanets, seeking both to fire the reader’s imagination while remaining true to new data.”

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

Collaborative Team Composition

- Each team must consist of 3-5 Alpha Chi student members representing at least 3 distinct academic departments.
- **New:** 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 2024 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 15, 2024, one student team representative must complete the [Intention to Compete Form](#) that only Alpha Chi members and advisors can access when logged into their GreekTrack portals. The form asks for the team composition*, project title, and a project abstract.
 - * Identify the Alpha Chi members on the team, their classifications, email addresses, and the academic fields they will represent. If there is a faculty mentor, include their name, department, college, and email address.

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 **March 16** to office@alphachihonor.org.

(2) **New:** Slide Presentation (PowerPoint or Google Slides)

- To enhance audience engagement, up to 10 digital slides may be shown during the presentation. See rubric for what to include.
- Submit by email no later than **March 27** to office@alphachihonor.org.

(3) Live (Virtual) Presentation with Q&A

- Each team must have at least 2 student team members presenting the project live to the judges during an online (virtual) event. **New:** This will be scheduled the weekend before or during the virtual 2025 National Convention, April 3-5.
- 10-minute presentation followed by a 4-minute question and answer period (questions or comments from judges will have priority).

Review of Deadlines Prior to Live Presentation

1st Deadline: 10-15-2024 (declaration of team composition and working title/abstract)

2nd Deadline: 03-16-2025 (written report)

3rd Deadline: 03-27-2025 (slide 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 their portion of the prize.

Due to the virtual nature of the 2025 National Convention, any format changes will be communicated to each team as soon as they are known. If you have questions not addressed here, please contact Executive Director Lara Noah at lnoah@alphachihonor.org.