

## **2024–2025 GUIDELINES FOR ECONOMICS (ECON) COMPETITION FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS**

### **ABOUT THE ECON COMPETITION**

The Econ Competition is organized by the Department of Economics at Illinois State University (ISU) and is sponsored by the Office of the Provost. The purpose of the Econ Competition for College students is to encourage Community College and 1st year ISU students to learn more about economics, allowing them to develop teamwork, research, data literacy, and analytical writing skills.

### **2024-2025 THEME**

On June 27, 1936, when President Franklin Roosevelt accepted the Democratic Party's nomination to run for a second term as President of the U.S., in his speech to the Democratic National Convention, he called for equal economic opportunity. Entering individuals/teams will select any topic that explicitly relates to the theme "***Racial Opportunity Gap in the U.S.***" to write an informative economics podcast script, which will be submitted for evaluation to the Department of Economics at Illinois State University.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

The Econ Competition is open to all eligible college students without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, or status as a protected veteran.

1. Participating Community Colleges must be in Illinois.
2. Eligible students must be enrolled in a Community College or in their 1st year at Illinois State University at the time of registration.
3. Students can participate either as individuals or as teams. For teams, the maximum number of student team members in each team is four (4).
4. Each registered individual/team can submit only one (1) entry to the Econ Competition.
5. There are no limits to the number of individuals/teams that can submit their entries from each institution.

## COMPETITION REGISTRATION

All interested individuals/teams must register for the Econ Competition by **11:59 pm February 17, 2025** by emailing Grace Steinke ([gestei1@ilstu.edu](mailto:gestei1@ilstu.edu)) the title of their entry, the competing school name and location, and the first and last name(s) of student author(s). The email should come from their official institutional email account.

## ENTRY

1. To be considered for the Econ Competition, participants must submit one podcast script.
  - a. Each script must be between 1,500 and 2,500 words (3–5 pages single-spaced or 6–10 pages double-spaced), exclusive of citations.
  - b. Margins must be one inch on all sides.
  - c. The font must be 12-point font, and pages should be numbered consecutively.
  - d. Entries will be accepted in English.
2. Only written entries will be accepted and considered for the competition. Recordings of the podcast or other types of submissions will not be considered in the evaluation process.
3. Entries must include academic research, which may be primary and/or secondary research, qualitative and/or quantitative.
4. The student(s) shall may determine the topic and content as long as it explicitly relates to the economic theme.
5. The entry must include:
  - a. Title page. The title page must include the title of the entry, the competing school name and location, the first and last names of student authors, the first and last name of the faculty advisor (if any), the total word count of the entry, and the name and edition of the selected style guide for citations.
  - b. The 1,500–2,500-word entry (Citations/Bibliography are excluded from the word count).
  - c. Citations/Bibliography. Citations/Bibliography must follow a research style guide, such as APA, Chicago Style, or MLA Handbook. The team may choose its style guide and must do the following:
    - List the style guide and edition used on the title page.
    - Consistently apply the selected style throughout the script and citations/bibliography.

## FINAL SUBMISSION

Final entries must be submitted in PDF format via email to our Academic Advisor, Grace Steinke ([gestei1@ilstu.edu](mailto:gestei1@ilstu.edu)) before **11:59 pm March 31, 2025**. Final entries must be submitted using the official email account from their home institution.

## COMMUNICATION

1. All correspondence or communication regarding submission and participation will be done electronically via email.
2. The organizers will only respond to inquiries, emails, and phone calls made by the team members or their faculty advisors (if a faculty advisor is indicated on the entry).

## EVALUATION AND SELECTION

1. Submissions will be evaluated by faculty members from the Department of Economics and members of the Economics Advisory Board.
2. The top-scoring individuals/teams will be invited to Illinois State University to present their podcast scripts in April 2025.
3. Individuals/Teams who finish in:
  - (a) First place will share a monetary award of \$3,000.
  - (b) Second place will share a monetary award of \$2,000.
  - (c) Third place will share a monetary award of \$1,000.
4. Winners of the Econ Competition will be recognized during our Awards Ceremony (details will be shared with the winners).

