

2024–2025 GUIDELINES FOR ECONOMICS (ECON) COMPETITION FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

ABOUT THE ECON COMPETITION

The Econ Competition is organized by the Department of Economics at Illinois State University and is sponsored by the Office of the Provost. The purpose of the Econ Competition for High School students is to encourage students in grades 9 to 12 to learn more about economics, allowing them to develop teamwork, research, data literacy, and analytical writing skills.

2024-2025 THEME

Entering teams will select any topic that explicitly relates to the theme “*Barriers to Small Business Success in Illinois*,” such as inadequate infrastructure, excessive regulation, red tape, corruption, etc. 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 students and teachers without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, or status as a protected veteran.

1. Participating high schools must be in Illinois.
2. Eligible high school students must be enrolled in one of grades 9 – 12 in the participating high school at the time of registration.
3. Each eligible high school may register up to three (3) teams for the competition.
4. Each registered team can submit one (1) entry.
5. The maximum number of student team members in each team is four (4).
6. The team is defined as the first and last names of the team members credited as written on the submission.
7. The principal of the school must certify the faculty advisor for the school’s official team and entry through submission.

COMPETITION REGISTRATION

All interested teams must register for the Econ Competition by **11:59 pm February 17, 2025**. The faculty advisor shall email Grace Steinke (gestei1@ilstu.edu) the title of the entry, the competing school name and location, first and last names of student authors, and first and last name of the faculty advisor.

ENTRY

1. To be considered for the Econ Competition, school teams 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 faculty advisor and student team shall 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, 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 and submitted online via email to our Academic Advisor, Grace Steinke (gestei1@ilstu.edu) before **11:59 pm March 31, 2025**.

COMMUNICATION

1. The faculty advisor designated by the participating school will be the primary point of contact for any questions or communications about the Econ Competition.
2. The faculty advisor is the central point of contact for the competition.
3. The organizers will only respond to inquiries, emails, and phone calls made by the faculty advisors (no communication with minors, students, or parents/caregivers about the competition).
4. All correspondence or communication regarding submission and participation will be done electronically via email.

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 teams will be invited to Illinois State University to present their podcast scripts in April 2025.
 3. 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 these team members).
- 