

Paper Competition Rules

Committee Members:

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1. Eligibility

1.1 Grade Level

The entrant must be an undergraduate student at a school in the region at which there is an IEEE Student Branch at the time of entry.

1.2 IEEE Membership Status

The entrant must be a registered IEEE student member.

2. Number of Entries

2.1 Total Entry Limit

There shall be no limit of entries in the contest. If there is only one entry, the counselor may declare the author submitting the paper the winner of the competition.

2.2 Entries per School

There shall be no limit to the number of papers one school submits to the competition.

2.3 Entries per Student

There shall only be one paper submitted by a single student.

3. Subject Matter

3.1 Allowable Topics

Papers should cover technical, engineering, education, or societal aspects of subjects related to the areas of which the author is familiar; this may include subjects either from school courses, hobbies, summer work, or similar sources.

3.2 Plagiarism

The work should be original in treatment and concise in coverage of the author's contribution to the subject. Plagiarism is grounds for disqualification from the contest.

4. Written Preparation

4.1 Paper Format

All papers must be typed using the IEEE Publication Templates available at the following link:

<https://template-selector.ieee.org/secure/templateSelector/publicationType>

When choosing the correct template, use the template for IEEE Transactions on Education:

Transactions on Education → Original Research or Brief → Word/LaTeX --> Download Template

4.2 Paper Length

The entire paper must not exceed 6 pages, including any pictures, diagrams, tables, graphs, appendices, etc.

4.3 Peer Review Process

The first draft of the paper must be submitted no later than March 1, 2024 through the Villanova University SAC 2024 website.

4.3.1 Submission Format

Each paper must be submitted in the PDF format only.

4.3.2 Peer Review

After submitting a paper, each entrant will receive two papers from other entrants. These papers should be peer reviewed and returned no later than March 15, 2024 through the Villanova University SAC 2024 website.

4.3.3 Final Submissions

Entrants will be able to proof and edit the paper. The final draft should be resubmitted no later than March 30, 2024.

4.3.4 Failure to Resubmit

If the revised paper after the peer review process is not submitted, the original paper submitted to the conference will be considered the final draft.

5. Oral Presentation

5.1 Conference Participants

The top twelve entrants, based on the preliminary scores from the submitted paper, will be given the opportunity to give a 10-minute presentation about the same topic.

5.2 Time Allotted

Seven minutes will be allotted for the presentation with three minutes for questions from the judges.

5.2.1 Preparation Period

Presenters will be given two minutes for preparation.

5.2.2 Timing Penalty

If the presenter continues to speak over the allotted time, a five point penalty will be applied.

5.2.3 Visual Aids

Visual presentation software such as PowerPoint or Google Slides may be used.

5.2.4 Presentation Aids

A projector will be made available for the presentation.

5.2.5 Custom Equipment

Each contestant is responsible for making arrangements with the paper contest committee for additional audio-visual equipment if needed. Some equipment may not be available.

5.3 Lateness

If any presenter is not available at the time their presentation is to begin, the next contestant will present. The skipped presenter may be allowed to present after all other scheduled presenters if time permits.

6. Judging

6.1 Evaluation Criterion

Submitted papers and presentations will be evaluated and judged based on a variety of criteria relating to technical capability and presentation skills.

6.1.1 Point Breakdown

30% of the final score will be given by the written component. The remainder will be given by the presentation.

6.2 Final Score

The entrant's final score will be the sum of these scores.

6.2.1 Tie

In the event of a tie for first, second, and/or third place, there will be a tiebreaker based on a majority vote of the judges.

6.2.2 Additional Questioning

Before a tie-breaking vote, the judges may choose to talk with any of the contestants. This may consist of further questions about the entrant's paper and/or presentation.

7. Discrepancies and Clarifications

7.1 Challenging and Contesting

In the event that any discrepancy in the rules arises or any clarification is needed, it will be settled by judgment of the paper contest committee. Any rulings made by the committee will be considered official and final.