THE 2026 USACM STUDENT CHAPTER POSTER

A Virtual Poster Competition in Computational Mechanics

The USACM Student Chapter, on behalf of the United States Association for Computational Mechanics, invites **graduate students (master's and PhD) and postdoctoral researchers** at U.S. institutions to virtually present their research in computational mechanics. This competition bridges the gap between USNCCM conferences, providing a platform to showcase research milestones to a broader audience.

The subject must be in a **computational mechanics related area**, including theoretical, experimental, and computational methods. Computational mechanics combines mathematics, physics, and engineering to describe the behavior of fluids, materials, and structures.

To participate, applicants must submit an abstract by **March 09, 2026**. Accepted participants will be notified and must then submit a poster (PDF) and recorded presentation (MP4). Up to 10 participants will be shortlisted for the live virtual competition.

Please review the competition rules and grading criteria on the following pages.

2026 - COMPETITION TIMELINE

January 28th, 2026: Registration and abstract submissions **OPEN**

March 09, 2026, 11:59 PM ET: Abstract submissions **CLOSE**

February 20, 2026: Volunteer judge registration closes

February 23 - March 9, 2026: Initial screening of submissions

March 10-20, 2026: Notification of acceptance sent to selected participants

March 30th, 2026, 11:59 PM ET: Poster and presentation submissions **CLOSE**

April 1-8, 2026: Judging of posters and presentations

THE 2026 USACM Student Chapter Virtual Poster Competition:

Friday, April 11, 2026 | Virtual via Zoom

April 24, 2026: Winners notified via email and announced on USACM social media

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AWARDS

🥇 **First Place**	Travel Award to the next USNCCM Conference
🥈 **Second Place**	Other Prizes
🥉 **Third Place**	Other Prizes
⭐ **People's Choice**	Other Prizes

For questions, please contact: **studentchapter@usacm.org**

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1. Goal

- Promote research and communication excellence among graduate students and postdocs in **computational mechanics related areas**

2. Objective

- Provide an opportunity for graduate students and postdocs to **virtually** present to a general audience:
  - A **concise** summary of their research via poster
  - A recorded presentation limited to **5 minutes**

3. Eligibility Requirements

- **Graduate Students (master's or PhD)** currently enrolled at a U.S. university
- **Postdoctoral Researchers** at U.S. academic institutions or national laboratories
- **Computational mechanics related area.** Computational mechanics combines mathematics, physics, and engineering to describe the behavior of materials and structures.
- Applicants must submit an abstract to enter the competition
- Upon acceptance, an email will be sent with poster and video submission instructions

4. Submission Requirements

Stage 1 - Abstract Submission (Due: March 09, 2026)

- Title of research
- Author name(s) and affiliation(s)
- Abstract (200-250 words) describing objectives, methods, results, and conclusions
- Primary research area/topic

Stage 2 - Poster & Presentation Submission (Due: April 3, 2026)

- **Poster:** PDF format, maximum 48" x 36"
- **Recording:** MP4 format, maximum 5 minutes. **Other video formats will not be accepted.**

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COMPETITION RULES

- Only eligible applicants notified by email can participate in the competition. Check eligibility requirements on page 2.
- The video presentations are limited to 5 minutes. **Competitors exceeding 5 minutes will be penalized in scoring.**
- The presentation timing starts when the presenter begins speaking (excluding title slide introduction).
- The video must be filmed on a plain background, using a single camera angle.
- Embedded audio/video links or files are not permitted within the video recording.
- Video submissions must be in MP4 format only. **Other video formats will not be accepted.**
- Poster submissions must be in PDF format only, maximum size 48" x 36".
- Posters and recordings must not be based on work previously published or presented at another conference with assigned copyright.
- Judges will evaluate the ability of the presenter to communicate research to a computational mechanics audience, delivery quality, and poster design.
- The decision of the USACM Student Chapter judging committee is final. **Appeals will not be accepted.**
- Up to **10 finalists** will be selected to enter the live **virtual** competition.
- At least one author must attend the live virtual Zoom session to present.
- Prior competition winners may only participate if they have substantial additions to their previous posters.
- By submitting, participants grant USACM permission to display their poster and recording on USACM platforms for promotional purposes.

⚠ **IMPORTANT:** The USACM Student Chapter reserves the right to cancel the competition if there are insufficient entries.

Research Poster Rubric

Student's Nam_____	Exhibit Number: _____	Judge Name:_____

Score:	10(A+) 9(A) 8(A-)	7(B+) 6(B) 5(B-)	4(C+) 3(C) 2(C-)	1(D)	Score
Communication of objective and significance	• clear and concise • technical terms explained well • understandable by an educated non-expert	• clear • technical terms explained • understandable by an expert but not an educated non-expert	• somewhat unclear • not all technical terms explained • somewhat unclear to experts and non-experts	• poor • technical terms not explained • confusing to all	○ 10 ○ 9 ○ 8 ○ 7 ○ 6 ○ 5 ○ 4 ○ 3 ○ 2 ○ 1
Explanation of project design and methodology	• well explained • addresses research objective • understandable to an educated non-expert	• adequately explained • addresses research objective • understandable to an expert but not an educated non-expert	• somewhat unclear • partially addresses research objective • somewhat unclear to experts and non-experts	• poorly explained • poorly aligned with research objective • confusing to all	○ 10 ○ 9 ○ 8 ○ 7 ○ 6 ○ 5 ○ 4 ○ 3 ○ 2 ○ 1
Explanation of Results and Conclusions	• results well organized, clearly and precisely presented • conclusions well-articulated and based on results • understandable to an educated non-expert	• results well organized and clearly presented • conclusions presented and based on results • understandable to an expert but not an educated non-expert	• results somewhat unclear • conclusions not completely clear or directly based on results • somewhat unclear to expert and non-expert	• missing or unclear • conclusions do not relate to results • confusing to all	○ 10 ○ 9 ○ 8 ○ 7 ○ 6 ○ 5 ○ 4 ○ 3 ○ 2 ○ 1
Visual presentation	• outstanding visual appeal • excellent use of color and font • graphics engaging and enhance text • clear and orderly arrangement	• effective visual appeal • adequate use of color, and font • graphics enhance text • somewhat orderly arrangement	• adequate visual appeal • color and font inconsistent • excessive text, few supporting graphics • arrangement not well organized	• appearance lacks professionalism • color and font detract from understanding • graphics missing or do not enhance text • arrangement detracts from understanding	○ 10 ○ 9 ○ 8 ○ 7 ○ 6 ○ 5 ○ 4 ○ 3 ○ 2 ○ 1
Overall Presentation	• clear, concise, and professional • excellent use of poster to explain research • answers questions completely	• mostly clear, concise, and professional • acceptable use of poster to explain research • answers questions adequately	• not completely clear or concise • occasional use of poster to explain research • answers to questions somewhat confusing	• unclear and unprofessional • poor use of poster to explain research • answers questions poorly	○ 10 ○ 9 ○ 8 ○ 7 ○ 6 ○ 5 ○ 4 ○ 3 ○ 2 ○ 1

Comments:

TOTAL SCORE: _____ / 50

Scoring: Final scores are calculated as the average of all judge scores. Ties are resolved by the highest individual score.

Conflict of Interest: Judges will recuse themselves from evaluating posters they supervise or co-author.

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