



2025 Official Rules Student Research Awards

INTRODUCTION

The MCF Student Research Awards are designed to encourage students (undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral students) to become involved in scientific research projects that involve chromatography, to reward them for successfully achieving results, and to encourage them to become involved with the Minnesota Chromatography Forum (MCF). To be considered for the award, a student, under the sponsorship of an academic or other professional mentor, **must present results at the MCF Spring Symposium** for a project in which chromatography or some other form of separation science plays a role. Both oral and poster presentations are eligible for an award. A panel of at least three reviewers will judge all student presentations at the symposium and divide \$4000 in prize money between the student presenters based on the quality of their work, using the criteria listed below. If undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral students give presentations, the award money will be divided into different categories. The awardees will be notified at the end of the Symposium.

INSTRUCTIONS

Students wishing to be considered for the MCF Student Award should submit an abstract for the MCF Spring Symposium following the standard format at <https://www.mnchrom.com/call-for-papers.html>. The deadline for abstracts is April 11, 2025. If the abstract indicates that it is a student presentation, the presentation will automatically be entered into the competition for an MCF Student Award.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Any student, regardless of major, who is enrolled in a college, university or technical institute, is eligible. They can have completed their work in an academic lab or off campus with a non-academic project mentor. Undergraduate students will be judged in a separate pool from graduate students and postdocs. All types of students are eligible.

PROJECT MENTORS

Project mentors can be any professional scientist. This includes both faculty members of a science, math, or engineering department at a college, university or technical institute and scientists mentoring student interns at companies or state and federal agencies.

RESEARCH PROJECT CRITERIA

The research project whose results are reported in the application must be one in which chromatography or some other separation technique (electrophoresis, mass spectrometry, etc.) plays an important role. Projects directly involved in separation science, as well as projects in which separation techniques are used to solve problems in chemistry, biology or some other area, are encouraged. In other words, the project does not need to center around chromatography, but some form of separation science should be an important part in generating the results.

Applications will be judged on creativity of the project, the completeness of the study, the clarity of the presentation, and the importance of the results, but not on the sophistication of the equipment to be used.

REVIEW PANEL

The review panel will consist of at least three judges who have had significant experience in chromatography or a related science. Panel members may be represented by academic and/or non-academic scientists. Panel members will recuse themselves from reviewing any presentation from a person with whom they have a conflict of interest. All decisions of the panel pertaining to the selection of the winning presentations are final.

ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Inquiries about this research award should be directed to:

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Information about the Minnesota Chromatography Forum can be found at:
<http://www.mnchrom.com>