**2025**

**Undergraduate Student Poster**

**Competition**

*Presented by:*

**FINRA Investor Education Foundation**

**American Council on Consumer Interests**



First Prize: $1,000

Second Prize: $700

Conference registration and travel stipend of up to $750 for each student winner[[1]](#footnote-1)

$300 travel stipend for accompanying faculty mentor

One year’s membership in ACCI for each student winner

Students are encouraged to work in teams to develop a research plan, the results of which can be portrayed as a poster to be presented at the ACCI Annual Conference, April 15-17, 2025, at the Omni William Penn, in Pittsburgh, PA, USA.

# Poster Topics

Topics should generally align with ACCI’s mission devoted to consumer well-being and the FINRA Foundation’s mission to empower underserved Americans with the knowledge, skills, and tools to make sound financial decisions throughout life.

A committee of ACCI members and FINRA Foundation staff will review submissions.

# Competition Rules

1. **Team Information**
   * Teams are encouraged to visit the ACCI Website, [www.ConsumerInterests.org](http://www.ConsumerInterests.org) to learn more about the mission, vision, and values of ACCI.
   * Each team may consist of one (1) to three (3) undergraduate students who are taking at least nine (9) credit hours in 2024-2025 as per the registrar’s records. Teams may be comprised of any composition of majors.
   * Teams must have a faculty advisor who is a current member of ACCI, and this faculty advisor will be the only correspondent with the ACCI office.
   * Students do not have to be current members of ACCI.
   * There is no limit to the number of teams who may apply per university or college.
   * Faculty should submit their team(s) *Intent to Participate Form* (attached) **by ~~December 16, 2024, but no later than January 3, 2025~~** *extended* **January 24, 2025**.
   * Finished posters and two-page *Poster Project Report and Poster* (attached) are due **no later than ~~February 10, 2025~~** *extended* **February 17, 2025**.
   * *Note that undergraduate students are not eligible for Student/Young Professional Conference Scholarships; kindly do not apply.*
   * Applicant or advisor (or their family members) cannot work for or be involved in the governance of FINRA or the FINRA Foundation
   * Applicant or advisor cannot be registered with FINRA
   * Applicant or advisor cannot be employed by a FINRA-registered firm
   * Applicant or advisor cannot be employed by an agency exercising oversight of FINRA
2. **Award Process**

* A *Sample Judging Form* is attached and indicates evaluation criteria.
* The winning team and the runner-up will be notified on or about **March 1, 2025,** and will need to confirm their acceptance to participate no later than **March 15, 2025**.
* The ACCI office will then work with advisors and team members for registration, travel, and hotel reservations.
* Winning teams will be allowed to send up to two students and if more students are on the team and funds allow, a third may be approved. Each of the two students will receive a registration waiver to the ACCI 2025 conference; after the conference, up to a $750 travel stipend per student pending submission of a travel reimbursement form with acceptable and proper receipts (format for this documentation will be provided). Payment will not exceed acceptable documentation. Hotel room nights of up to one night stay prior to the start of the conference through one night stay after the close of conference will qualify for reimbursement.
* Students should be prepared to fund their travel and hotel and then be reimbursed. Faculty advisors will be essential in helping students manage their travel record-keeping. Students must stay at the site hotel, and double occupancy is anticipated among the winning teams. Reimbursements will only be made to the student, in the student’s name and not to a university account.
* Instructions on how to prepare the final poster as well as the size of the poster can be found on the 2025 conference webpage: [https://www.consumerinterests.org/conference-202](https://www.consumerinterests.org/conference-2025)5.
* Attendance by at least one team member for all days of the conference and presentation of their poster in scheduled poster sessions are required to receive the award. That is, students must participate in the full conference arriving in time for the opening general session and not leaving before the closing general session has concluded and the conference adjourned.

**Questions concerning content**

Dr. Yunhee Chang, Competition Committee Chair, [chang@olemiss.edu](mailto:chang@olemiss.edu)

**Questions concerning logistics**

ACCI Executive Director, Ginger Phillips, [gphillips@consumerinterests.org](mailto:gphillips@consumerinterests.org)

***Attachments:*** Intent to Participate Form, Poster Project Report and Poster, Sample Judging Form

## Intent to Participate Form – Due ~~December 16, 2024, but no later than January 3, 2025~~ January 24, 2025

Send this form by email to the following two:

* Dr. Yunhee Chang – [chang@olemiss.edu](mailto:chang@olemiss.edu)
* Jenn Breitenbach, ACCI Executive Assistant – [admin@consumerinterests.org](mailto:admin@consumerinterests.org)

Poster Draft or Final Title: Click or tap here to enter text.

Faculty Advisor Name: Click or tap here to enter text.

University: Click or tap here to enter text.

Telephone: Click or tap here to enter text.

Email: Click or tap here to enter text.

Students Names, year (freshman, sophomore, etc.), email, phone, course of study and degree sought:

## Poster Final Submission and Poster – Due February ~~10~~ 17, 2025

Send this by email to the following two:

* Dr. Yunhee Chang – [chang@olemiss.edu](mailto:chang@olemiss.edu)
* Jenn Breitenbach, ACCI Executive Assistant – [admin@consumerinterests.org](mailto:admin@consumerinterests.org)

Finished poster is attached in PDF

Title of Poster: Click or tap here to enter text.

250 Word Abstract: Click or tap here to enter text.

Body of the Proposal: up to two (2) pages, single-spaced (no school names, names of advisors or students should appear on this part).

* + Introduction/purpose of the study
    - Empirical studies should provide a clear statement of the goals of the research or the hypothesis the study tested. Explain the need for the study.
    - Non-empirical studies should focus on the reason for the study.
  + Methodology
    - Empirical studies: Describe the study design and study participants (include the manner of sample selection, number, and gender of participants). Describe methods in sufficient detail to allow the reader to judge their accuracy, reproducibility, and reliability. If this is an evaluation study, describe the intervention.
    - Non-empirical studies may be policy reviews, recommendations for education standards and/or program directions and should focus on the relevance of the topic for an ACCI audience.
  + Results
    - Empirical studies should identify the major findings or preliminary results.
    - Non-empirical studies should focus on implications and possible outlets for dissemination of findings.
  + Conclusion/Future research implications
    - A brief and focused statement of the main inferences drawn from results, the potential application of findings and relevance to the consumers’ interest.

## Sample Judging Form

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Category | Review Criteria | Rating (5 = high, 1 = low) | | | | | Weight | Score  (rating x weight) |
| Portrayal of Information on the poster | * Is the poster legible? * Does it convey the intent and purpose of the project? * Is it aesthetically arranged? | 5 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 1 | X2 |  |
| Abstract | * Does the poster include a brief abstract summarizing the research/study? | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | X 2 |  |
| Introduction | * Does the introduction explain clearly and precisely the purpose of the study? * Is the significance of the study supported by previous research? * Is the study’s purpose aligned with the mission of ACCI and FINRA? | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | X 3 |  |
| Methodology | * Empirical study – Is the study design and participants described in sufficient detail to demonstrate accuracy, reproducibility, and reliability? * Non-empirical study – Is the relevance of the study to an ACCI audience clearly described? | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | X 5 |  |
| Results | * Empirical study – Were major findings clearly identified? * Non-empirical study – Are implications of the study relevant to an ACCI audience? | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | X 5 |  |
| Conclusion | * Are main inferences drawn from the results clearly articulated? * Is the application of findings logical? * Is the conclusion relevant to the consumer interest? | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | X 3 |  |
| Implications | * Are implications justified based on results of the study? | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | X 2 |  |
| Comments: | | | | | | | Total score | |

1. Only two $750 travel support stipends per first place and second place are guaranteed. If funding permits, some travel support for second students representing a winning poster may be possible. Proper receipts required. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)