



ACI Iran Chapter Concrete Solutions Competition

Objectives

Students must demonstrate and/or explain how their use of concrete could positively impact the world at large. This competition is broad in its scope – teams are encouraged to use creative means to present and explain their concrete approach or solution to a broad audience including why it should interest the public at large. The top 20 submissions will participate in team interviews with judges on December 2021 from 1:00 PM – 5:30 PM during the ACI Iran Chapter Concrete Convention. The winners will be announced on the day of the Convention. For examples of submission topics, see more in the rules below.

Prizes

First, Second, and Third place entries will each be awarded a certificate of recognition, will be recognized in ACI Iran Chapter's newsletter if space allows, and will be recognized on ACI's Iran Chapter website at www.aciiranchapter.org.

Background

Driven by the continued need for students to collaborate and combine their knowledge and insight despite the inability to gather in person, this wholly remote competition has been inspired by ASCE's BlueSky Competition, ACI's Concrete Projects and Concrete Construction Competitions, and discussions within and among members of the S-801 Student Competitions Committee. We endeavor to provide students with a means to exercise and display their creativity and knowledge while incentivizing students' use of and learning about the world's most-used building material, concrete.

The intention is to allow student teams to collaborate and submit entries in a completely remote setting, permitting even students attending universities and schools remotely to participate. While team collaboration may be complicated in a remote setting, participants are reminded that this is a team event; presenting research, even potentially impactful research, is likely outside of the scope of this competition. Participation of the full team will be considered as part of the scoring for the competition.

Rules

1. Eligibility

- a. The rules of eligibility have been translated to Persian and attached to this document. See attachment A.
Each competition has separate and different requirements and rules of eligibility, so participants in the student competitions should read each document carefully.
- b. Please note that previously for this competition there have been many teams disqualified due to non-compliance with the rules. Please review the rules carefully.

2. Judging

- a. The judges will be appointed by the Chair of ACI Iran Chapter Student Competition committee and/or the lead judge of the competition. A lead judge will be appointed and will develop a scoring rubric to be used by all judges in evaluation of the entries.
- b. The judges will determine whether or not the rules have been followed and interpret them.
 1. Questions regarding the rules must be submitted via email to the ACI contact noted below. Questions will be filtered to the volunteer judging team with responses issued within 1 week of submittal. Responses will also be posted to the FAQ section on the competition website for availability to all competitors. ACI Iran Chapter staff is not available off-hours and questions will be responded to as received.
- c. The decision of the judges will be final, and appeals will not be considered.
- d. All entrants must maintain ethical conduct and professional behavior at all times. Failure to do so will result in appropriate penalization or sanctions against the team in this competition and potentially future competitions.
- e. Final competition results will be calculated based on the following breakdown:
Overall Score (100%):
Submission (60%):
 10% clarity of presentation
 20% creativity of presentation format
 20% originality of the approach
 10% potential impact on society
The Interview will be conducted **in FARSI** or English via Zoom/Skype (40%), *top 20 teams in the Submission category*

20% responses to questions and understanding of provided solution
10% clarity of responses and professional team demeanor
10% engagement of the whole team

- f. In the instance of a tied overall final score, the team with the higher “potential impact on society” score will be ranked higher. In the unlikely event the teams are still tied, the team with the higher team engagement score in the Interview portion will receive the higher rank.

3. Submission Details

Teams must complete registration for the competition by 5:30 p.m. on 25 November 2021. Registration will be through the competition website at www.aciiranchapter.org.

Submission consisting of a YouTube video URL, **in English**, no longer than **7 minutes**, meeting the requirements on the competition, shall be submitted through the competition webpage prior to 5:30 p.m. on 9 December 2021. The YouTube video settings must be public, and “Made for Kids” option must be turned off. The YouTube Video should be uploaded in the following format:

- a. Title: TEAM NAME - COMPETITION NAME – ACI IRAN CHAPTER
- b. Description: Include the Team Name, University Name, and brief description of the solution presented in the video.

Details of these required items will be included through the student registration website. It is suggested to avoid waiting to the last minute for submission to avoid delays with obtaining all parts of the required documentation. **Failure to provide the required documentation will disqualify a team from participating. Late entries will be penalized, up to and including possible disqualification from the competition.**

Content of the video submission is open, but creativity in presentation is both suggested and encouraged. The goal and findings of the solution presented and concrete’s involvement within it should be obvious to all viewers of the submission. Content should be understood by an English-speaking audience. Ethical and professional responsibility stated elsewhere in these rules must be followed.

Registration is required. All teams must register through the competition website by 25 November 2021 at 5:30 p.m. and indicates your intent to enter the competition. See the ACI Iran Chapter website for registration forms and additional information. Failure to meet the above deadlines due to technical problems or for any reason may result in the inability to participate in the competition or point penalties at the discretion of the judges.

Summary of competition deadlines and key dates:

Team Registration: by 5:30 p.m. 25 November 2021.

Final Submission of Competition materials and YouTube Video : by 5:30 p.m. 9 December 2021.

Notification of Teams for Interviews: from ACI by 11 December 2021.

Live Interviews with selected teams: At the designated times for the Student Competition on December or as otherwise directed.

Award of winning teams: On the Day of the ACI Iran Chapter Annual Convention.

4. Compliance with Competition Rules:

ACI Iran Chapter reserves the right to perform detailed examination and check entries for compliance with the competition rules. Due to the complexity of this task, the examination may be done after the competition. If the examination shows that a team did not follow the rules, the team, their advisor and all his/her teams will be disqualified. ACI Iran Chapter Student Competition committee will further document recommendations to sanction the team and its advisor and/or the school/university's participation in future competitions. Failure to supply the required submittals or failure to meet the established deadlines may result in penalties, up to and including disqualification.

5. Examples of Potential Submissions:

- a. Show how concrete can be used to solve one of society's major problems; through development of a new product, approach, or innovative use of existing technology
- b. Develop a new student competition that exposes students worldwide to concrete and encourages the use of concrete to solve the world's problems. By exposing students to the possible solutions that concrete can provide, we encourage the generation of more new ideas and potential innovative approaches to solving the world's problems. A good competition is both exciting and educational.
- c. Show how a unique approach in mix design or testing led to a breakthrough in concrete knowledge or a superior product - possibly even in a previous student competition, such as the ACI Bowling Ball competition.
- d. Show how the innovative use of existing technology could improve the construction community or society at large. This could include the adaptation of new technologies to result in more efficient designs, decreased use of embodied carbon, or overall reduction in the global impacts caused by current concrete construction.

6. Concrete Solutions Competition Questions

Q: What is the maximum number slides for a PowerPoint presentation?

A: The competition doesn't have a set maximum for slides. Although, for example, if your team does 1 slide per minute, 7 slides = 7-minute max. If your team chooses to use PowerPoint, I encourage you to use the template provided for uploading team member information.

Q: Can we explain our PowerPoint presentation in a video?

A: Please review the Competition Rules. The video can be in any format, including PowerPoint, short film, documentary, etc. Examples of potential submissions can be found in the Rules.

Q: I registered for the Concrete Solutions Competition. I just finished my final exams last month, so my Department denies that I am still an undergraduate because I just graduated. There are 5 other students who are still in. Our department can provide verification for 5 students who are all my juniors. So, is it necessary to provide verification for me and 2 of my fellow students, or should the 3 of us withdraw from competition, or is there any other option to verify for 3 of us?

A: Since you have graduated, you are no longer eligible for the competition.

Q: What should be included in the video? Should it be a video of the students presenting their PowerPoint presentation or a video explaining the innovative solution creatively? Is it necessary to create a video for the competition?

A: A video is required for the Concrete Solutions Competition. The video can be in any format including PowerPoint, short film, documentary, etc. Examples of potential submissions and video requirements can be found in the Rules.

Q: Is it necessary that for the support via Skype or Zoom, all participants have command of the English language? Can one be the translator? Or, will the judges have one?

A: At least one student participating in the Skype call should speak English on behalf of the team. However, there is always a bilingual interpreter at the competition to offer additional assistance if needed.

Q: Can the YouTube Video be in another language except English?

A: No, The videos must be in English But the Interview can be conducted in English or other preferable language.