



Rules and Requirements

Eligibility

- Full-time or part-time students enrolled in a U.S. college or university are eligible to enter. A part-time student is anyone who has been enrolled between June 2020 and June 2021.
- In the case of a team, all team members must be enrolled as full-time or part-time students in a U.S. college or university between June 2020 and June 2021.
- Non-U.S. citizens are eligible as long as they are enrolled in a U.S. college or university and can meet the student eligibility status.
- Entries are ineligible if the invention (1) has already been patented or disclosed by another party/inventor, or (2) you have been issued a patent for the invention more than one year prior to the date of submission to the competition.

Application

The application consists of: General student and adviser/professional reference information, an essay including a brief description or abstract of the invention, a letter of recommendation from the faculty adviser/professional reference, a literature/patent search and summary, and any relevant supporting or supplemental materials you wish to submit (examples: charts, graphs, videos, articles, samples, etc.). The entry must be written in English.

Each entry must be the original idea and work of the student or student/adviser team and must not have been (1) made available to the public as a commercial product or process, or (2) patented or published more than one year prior to June 2021.

The invention must be a reduced-to-practice idea or working model and must be the work of a student or team of students, either as a class project or an independent project. The invention must be capable of being reproduced.



Adviser/Professional Reference

If you do not have an adviser, you must designate an individual to serve in the capacity of an adviser/professional reference for purposes of the competition. That person must submit a letter on your behalf. Your adviser may be a counselor, faculty member or professional connection who knows you and with whom you feel comfortable describing your invention/research.

Public Disclosure

Entering the Collegiate Inventors Competition® does not require you to make any “enabling” disclosures; that is, we do not ask you to give us information that would allow a person of ordinary skill to duplicate your invention. As such, we do not view your entry as a public disclosure. In addition, all individuals including judges who are reviewing your entries are bound by nondisclosure agreements that require them to keep the details confidential. The National Inventors Hall of Fame® only uses the titles and very short descriptions of the inventions for publicity purposes.

For more information about eligibility requirements, contact collegiate@invent.org.



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