



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) for Student Case Competition

1. **Who is eligible to compete?**

Students (both undergraduate and graduate) of Supply Chain, Operations Management or related fields who are taking at least 6 units per semester and are NOT working full-time, are eligible to participate. If your school is located in Southern California (San Luis Obispo area or further south), Arizona, Southern Nevada, or Northern Mexico (Mexicali, Tijuana, or Ambos Nogales areas), then you are within the geographical boundaries of the Southwest District. There is no fee for your team to compete in our competition. However, if your school is outside of our geographical area, then each team must submit \$500 registration fee to participate in our competition. See Questions 11 and 12 if you are outside of the Southwest District boundaries.

2. **How will the judging work for this year?**

We have re-formatted the case competition for 2010, based on feedback from students, judges and APICS Professionals to better work for everyone. The case will be given to each team at **9 a.m. on Friday morning**. Only team members who are present at 9 a.m. on Friday morning for the case will be allowed to work on the case. Teams will work on the case during the day on Friday, and will turn in a 1 page Executive Summary, and a PowerPoint presentation at 6 p.m. on Friday evening. Preliminary judging and oral presentations will be made on Friday evening at 8 p.m., and the top teams will then present to all the APICS Professionals on Sat. morning for final judging. Winners will be announced after lunch on Saturday. Students are free to leave the competition after the announcement of the winners on Saturday afternoon, following lunch which should be completed by 2 p.m. **Please make any flight arrangements leaving after 3 p.m. on Saturday to ensure adequate time to make your flight.**

3. **What prizes will be awarded for this competition?**

All teams will receive a Certificate and Gold, Silver, or Bronze Medallion for their participation and winning place. All teams will receive a **cash** award based on a split of the total contributions received to fund the competition to be shared among the team members. 1st place for Graduate and 1st place for Undergraduate winning teams will receive a larger share of the split, 2nd place will be less than 1st place but **all** teams will receive a cash award for participating. Undergraduate 1st place winners will also receive financial support from the Southwest District to participate in the Scholars Program at the 2010 APICS International Conference on Oct. 16-19, 2010 in Nashville, TN.

4. **Can our school compete as a team, or will we be split up among several teams?**

We expect schools to send teams of students. Team sizes can be from 2 to 6 students. However, optimal size is 4 students (in case you are the winner) since only 4 will be eligible to attend the 2010 APICS International Conference. Teams should be made up of either graduate or undergraduate students, not a mixture. We will hold a separate judging for graduate and undergraduate teams, although all will receive the same Case Study. In the event that a school sends only 1 student, then that student will be combined with another team of less than 6 students to make up a team.

5. **What if one of my team members is under 21 years of age? Can they still participate?**
Yes, we will allow students who are under 21 to participate. Minimum age requirement is 18 years of age. The Southwest District hosts a hospitality suite on Friday night that students and professionals are invited to attend. We were however, initially concerned about having under-age students due to the liability of serving alcohol. Therefore, we will check student ID's and only those students who are 21 or over will be served alcoholic beverages, if they choose. Others will be limited to the non-alcoholic beverages. Remember, we expect **all** attendees to behave in a professional manner during the entire course of the district meeting and competition.
6. **What if I graduate before the October 2010 APICS International Conference is held? Will I still be able to participate as a Scholar in the APICS International Conference if I am on the winning Undergraduate team?**
Yes, APICS will allow you to participate as a Scholar, only if you are a member of the winning Undergraduate team **and** you are a student member of APICS. For 2010, the APICS International Conference will be held in Nashville, TN from Oct. 16-19, 2010. You will be provided with full instructions on how to register for this conference if you are a member of the winning Undergraduate team. For any questions, contact Jennifer Howe at APICS headquarters.
7. **Can I participate in the District Case Competition if I am not a member of APICS or an APICS student chapter?**
Yes. Because our district has fewer student members than we would like, we will open up the competition to **all** students of Operations Management. Our hope is that you will like what you see about APICS and see the value of joining either the parent or student chapter in your area at some time in the near future. However, to participate in the 2010 APICS International Conference as a Scholar (if you are on the winning team), you will need to join APICS as a Student member. We will have all the information available for you at the meeting.
8. **How do I register for the February Student Case competition in Phoenix, AZ?**
Go to www.apicssouthwest.org and sign up for the district meeting under the link for Student Case Competition Participants. You will need to provide your contact information and the name/contact for your school advisor or professor. **The registration deadline is Saturday, February 6, 2010.** Contact your local Operations Management professor or nearest APICS chapter for more information or e-mail Barry Solomon at: solombar@cox.net or Ellen Kane at: ek@theacagroup.com for specific questions.
9. **Why do I need to supply my own hotel room?**
Since APICS does not know your preferences for hotel rooms, and many of the other district competitions use this method, we decided to change our method for 2009 to allow for prize money for the winning teams. In order to do that, we will NOT provide rooms for the competing teams, but will allow you to use the APICS discount when registering for rooms. Your school/team can decide how many rooms you need and for what dates. At a minimum, your team will need a room on Friday night. If you are coming from "out of town" to Phoenix, you may also need a room for Thursday evening, so you can be ready to receive the case on Friday morning at 9 a.m. **To qualify for the APICS rate, hotel rooms should be reserved no later than Friday, Jan. 29. If your plans change, you can cancel the hotel room 3 days before the event and not be charged for the room.**
10. **What will be my expenses to participate in the District Competition in February?**
You will need to provide your own transportation to/from the competition on Friday, February 19th at the Crowne Plaza Phoenix Airport in Phoenix, AZ. **Be sure to arrive no later than 9 a.m. on Friday.** We will provide some refreshments on Friday but no breakfast or lunch. We will have a hospitality suite with some finger foods for Friday evening before the presentations. There will be some food and beverages provided but not a complete dinner. We will also provide a continental breakfast on Saturday morning and a full lunch on Saturday afternoon. You may plan to leave the competition by 2 p.m. on Saturday if you wish. Your hotel room expenses will be your own and we encourage you to solicit support from

your local APICS chapter and/or your school. Case study resources (computer, books, flash drive, etc.) are your responsibility but we will provide a printer for your case study solution. Internet access is provided by the hotel.

11. Why is there a fee for teams from outside the Southwest District area?

Prize money and expenses for this case competition are made from donations by the chapters and members of the Southwest District. It is hoped that other APICS districts will see the value in this type of student activity and develop their own case competitions, but because of the huge increase in attendance last year, we are concerned that we will not have enough donations to cover costs for all students. Please talk with your local APICS chapter, student advisor or local businesses for possible sources for the \$500 team fee.

12. How do I submit my \$500 fee if my school is outside of the Southwest District?

Use the Southwest District Student Competition Donation Form, found at <http://apicssouthwest.org/meetinginfo.htm>. In the Chapter/Donation Source field, please indicate the school that this donation is supporting.

13. If I still have questions, how can I get them answered?

Contact Barry Solomon at: solombar@cox.net or at 702 324-1729 or Ellen Kane at: ek@theacagroup.com or at 818 999-4877 for specific questions. We will be glad to answer them for you.