

## **Nighthawks Economics Showdown Rule Book**

### **Overview**

The UNG Nighthawks Showdown is an educational program that aims to encourage high school students to learn more about economics in general and macroeconomics in particular. Participants will develop research and writing skills. The University of North Georgia (UNG) will designate the competition's theme each year.

### **Eligibility**

The UNG Nighthawks Showdown is open to all eligible students and teachers without regard to ethnicity, gender, religion (creed), age, disability, or any other discriminatory reason. Participating high schools must be located in the Atlanta metropolitan area or the Northeast Georgia region.

- Eligible high school students must be enrolled in one of grades 9 – 12 at the time of registration.
- Each eligible high school may register only one team for the competition and each team may submit only one entry each year.

### **Entries**

- To enter the competition, school teams must submit one paper directly related to the theme for that year's competition.
- The maximum length of each paper is 5,000 words excluding the title page and the references pages.
- The formatting of each entry will include:
  - 8.5 x 11" pages
  - Portrait orientation
  - One-inch margins on all sides
  - 12-point fonts throughout
  - Double spacing throughout
  - Consecutively numbered pages

- Each entry must include academic research. Such research may include quantitative methods focused on causal relationships, qualitative methods focused on explanations based on observations, or a combination of both methods.
- The paper for each entry will include:
  - A title page that includes:
    - Title of the entry
    - School's name and complete street address
    - First and last names of students
    - First and last names of faculty advisors
    - Total word count of the entry
  - In-text citations that follow the current edition of the APA Manual ○ Reference pages with sources listed according to the current edition of the APA Manual
  - Each in-text citation must be included in the reference list and each source included in the reference list must be cited within the text of the paper.
- Entries must be submitted as PDF documents via the [submission portal](#) on or before on the submission deadline date, as indicated by the time indicated in the email inbox for the University of North Georgia.
- Entries received after the deadline will not be accepted for any reason.

### Plagiarism

- By entering the competition, teams certify that all entries are original work of the students on the team and that the work has not been submitted elsewhere previously.
- Either intentional plagiarism or unintentional plagiarism are violations of the rules for this competition.
- A plagiarism checker such as Turnitin or Grammarly will be used to verify the original content of each entry.
- Any evidence of plagiarism will be grounds for disqualification from the competition.

## Registration and Deadlines

- The faculty advisor for each school will be the primary point of contact for any questions or communications regarding the UNG Nighthawks Showdown. **Inquiries can be submitted to Kamilah Williams at [Kamilah.Williams@ung.edu](mailto:Kamilah.Williams@ung.edu)**
- Only school-related emails from the faculty advisor may be used for team registration. UNG is not able to accept personal emails for the UNG Nighthawks Showdown.
- Registration for the competition is limited to a maximum of ten total participants, including students and faculty advisors.
- Team composition:
  - Each team will consist of three to eight students who must be enrolled at the participating high school at the time of registration.
  - Each team will consist of one faculty advisor who teaches economics or a closely-related discipline.
- The teams, with the assistance of their advisors, are responsible for knowing and meeting all deadlines.
- Each faculty advisor must register their team on or before the registration deadline.

## Communications

- The faculty advisor is the central point of contact. UNG faculty and staff working on the UNG Nighthawks Showdown will respond only to inquiries made by the faculty advisors. UNG faculty and staff will not communicate directly with students about the competition.
- All correspondence regarding registration, submission, and participation will be conducted electronically through the UNG e-mail indicated above.
- All forms must be submitted on or before the established deadlines. Failure to do so may result in the team's disqualification.

## Evaluation and Selection

- Submissions to the UNG Nighthawks Showdown will be evaluated by faculty and staff from UNG's Mike Cottrell College of Business.
  - UNG reviewers will select the competition's finalists and the competition's winners based on the factors delineated in the rubric included in this rule book.