Student Rules for the Petroleum Engineering Annual Student Paper Contest

Expectations
The Petroleum Engineering Annual Student Paper Contest (SPC) is a decades-long tradition and degree requirement. Former students and industry supporters donate significant amounts of time and money to support the contest because they regard it as one of the most important professional development opportunities the department provides to students. We expect that you will give due respect to this opportunity and all participants by

- Expending an appropriate amount of time and effort conducting your study and preparing your presentation
- Presenting and answering questions about your study with competence and practiced poise
- Supporting your fellow students by participating in the entire Student Paper Contest
- Conducting yourself professionally at all times

Attendance Policy
- Absence from part or all of the primary Student Paper Contest will be permitted for only University-approved reasons in accordance with Texas A&M University Student Rules (see http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07). In accordance with recent changes to Rule 7, please be aware that any “injury or illness that is serious enough for a student to be absent” from the SPC will require “a medical confirmation note from his or her medical provider.”
- Students missing the primary SPC will be required to attend the runoff competition in its entirety the following Saturday and then present after the last runoff presenter. Because they will not have presented in the primary contest, they will not be eligible for prize money or advancement to Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) regional competition.
- Students missing any part of the primary SPC will be required to make up the time missed by attending the runoff competition held the following Saturday.

Presentation
Each student will give an oral presentation with PowerPoint slides to a panel of judges from industry

- MS and PhD students should present results of their graduate research
- Seniors should present the results of an independent study of a petroleum engineering problem
- Juniors may present either a proposal for or the results of an independent study of a petroleum engineering problem

Presentation Time
- Presentations should be a minimum of 10 minutes but no more than 15 minutes long
- Five minutes will be allotted for Q&A from judges following the presentation

Attire
Professional behavior and dress are expected

- Men should wear a coat and tie
- Women should wear comparable business attire

Prior to the Session
- If you need special software for your presentation please notify support@pe.tamu.edu before the contest date
- Bring PowerPoint slides on a USB flash drive
- Presentations are to be loaded before 8:30 a.m. the day of the contest
- Presentations will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m.
- Name badges will be given to you in your assigned room by your moderator
During the Session

- You are required to stay for the entire contest in order to support your fellow students. Tardiness or leaving early will be noted and will affect your presentation grade.
- Do not enter or leave the room during a presentation or Q&A session. This is to avoid disrupting a presentation.
- Do not access the computers if they are present in the room. Personal electronic devices are to be turned off or put on vibrate. DO NOT text during presentations. These are common courtesies that show respect for the speaker and judges and minimize distractions.
- Attend with interest to presentations by your fellow students. You will hear presentations on a wide variety of topics. Use this opportunity to learn more about the industry in which you intend to work.
- Complete a brief assessment of all presentations on a form that will be provided. Judging other presentations will help you be a better presenter.

Section Winners

- Winners will be announced for all sections at a BBQ following the SPC (~5:45 pm at Hurricane Harry’s) to which all participants are invited.
- The top three presenters in each section will be announced and will receive prize money.

Grade

A satisfactory grade in the SPC course requires:

- Submitting your presentation title by the posted deadline
- Presenting satisfactorily as decided by the judges and moderator
- Participating professionally in the entire contest
- Completing an assessment of other presentations in the session

Unprofessional behavior, exceedingly short presentations or obvious lack of effort will earn an unsatisfactory grade, which will require repeating the SPC course the following year.

Runoff and SPE Contests

- Winners of each section in the primary SPC will compete in a runoff SPC held the Saturday following the primary SPC. Typically the top two presenters in each undergraduate section and the top three presenters in each graduate section will advance to the runoff SPC. There will be a runoff competition for each of the four divisions—junior, senior, MS, and PhD.
- The top three presenters in each division will be announced and will receive prize money.
- Winners of the runoff SPC will advance to the SPE regional competition, where they will compete with students from other universities. The top two PhD, MS and undergraduate (usually senior) presenters will compete in PhD, MS, and Undergraduate division competitions at the regional contest.
- The first-place winner in each division at the SPE regional competition will advance to the SPE international SPC held at the SPE Annual Technical Conference and Exhibition.