Cal Poly Pomona



Student Competition and Experiential Learning Grant Program

$150,000 will be provided for access to opportunity and to support student experiential learning.

Who Can Apply: Students participating in officially recognized clubs who are attending competitive activities. Faculty advisors overseeing student competition teams or organizations. Recognized student organizations in partnership with a faculty or staff advisor. Centers, institutes and academic support units sponsoring student attendance of competitions or experiential learning activities. University-affiliated student teams that participate in academic, professional, research, artistic, entrepreneurship or industry-sponsored competitions.

Purpose: To advance the goals of CPP 2030 and strengthen student success, the Student Competition and Experiential Learning Grant Program will provide funding to support student teams and organizations participating in regional, national and international competitions. These experiences allow students to apply classroom knowledge in real-world settings, develop technical and professional skills, engage with industry leaders, and represent Cal Poly Pomona on highly visible competitive stages. This funding seeks to reduce financial barriers that may limit participation and expand access to transformative experiential learning opportunities for students across all disciplines.

Priority Considerations:

1. Provide hands-on learning opportunities directly connected to academic programs.
2. Support participation in recognized regional, national or international competitions.
3. Demonstrate strong workforce, industry or professional relevance.
4. Engage large numbers of students or provide opportunities for broad student involvement.
5. Increase access for students who may face financial barriers to participation.
6. Foster innovation, teamwork, leadership and applied problem-solving.
7. Enhance Cal Poly Pomona's visibility, reputation and competitive standing.
8. Demonstrate a clear plan for student learning outcomes and assessment.

Eligible Uses of Funds:

1. Competition registration fees
2. Student travel and lodging expenses
3. Transportation and shipping costs
4. Competition materials and supplies
5. Equipment necessary for competition participation
6. Uniforms, safety gear and team apparel
7. Prototype development and project materials
8. Faculty or staff travel directly associated with student supervision and competition participation
9. Other expenses that directly support student competitive experiences

Expected Outcomes:

1. Increased student participation in competitive experiential learning opportunities
2. Enhanced technical, professional, leadership, and teamwork skills
3. Improved career readiness and workforce preparation
4. Stronger connections between students, faculty, industry, and professional organizations
5. Increased student confidence, engagement, and persistence
6. Greater recognition of Cal Poly Pomona through student achievement and competition success
7. Expanded access to experiential learning opportunities for underserved student populations

Anticipated Impact: Student competitions represent some of the most visible and effective embodiments of Cal Poly Pomona's Become by Doing philosophy. By investing in student participation, the university can expand access to transformative experiences that connect classroom knowledge with real-world challenges. These opportunities help students develop highly sought-after technical and professional competencies while strengthening recruitment, retention, career outcomes, industry partnerships, and institutional reputation. Through strategic investments in student competition teams and experiential learning activities, Cal Poly Pomona will further advance CPP 2030 priorities related to student success, workforce readiness, innovation and social mobility while ensuring that financial barriers do not prevent talented students from participating in life-changing educational experiences.

How to Apply:

Funding will be provided through the Bronco Leadership Center. Learn more and apply at https://www.cpp.edu/blc/students/competition.shtml.