



FIRST ANNUAL
**Atlantic Undergraduate Policy
Case Competition**

Official Competition Rules and Rubrics - September 10, 2024

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Atlantic Undergraduate Policy Case Competition
Sackville, New Brunswick

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I. Competition Overview

The Atlantic Undergraduate Policy Case Competition (AUPCC) is a written policy case competition that seeks to provide students with the opportunity to apply their course content to a real-world policy issue. Participants will improve their critical thinking, research, and formal writing skills, and connect with like-minded peers, faculty members, and judges at the forefront of their fields. The inaugural program will culminate with an in-person event on the Mount Allison University campus, held on November 1-2, 2024. Monetary awards will be presented to those students whose submissions best exemplify effective policies, with a specific focus on impact, feasibility, and originality. The award values are as follows: \$1200 (First Place), \$1000 (Second Place), and \$700 (Third Place).

II. Eligibility

Undergraduate students from Acadia University, Mount Allison University, and St. Francis Xavier University are eligible to attend the 2024 AUPCC.

III. Team Requirements

Each participating university (Acadia University, Mount Allison University, and St. Francis Xavier University), may send a maximum of two student teams to the competition. Each team must be made up of 3 to 4 students from the same university.

IV. Policy Topic

The 2024 AUPCC policy topic is **climate adaptation and mitigation in Atlantic Canada**. This topic is purposefully left as broad as possible to allow students to propose a wide variety of solutions to more than one issue. Submissions may focus on anything relevant to the topic – from emissions reductions and a “just transition” to climate education and local sustainability projects. All submissions and presentations will be judged by a panel of four experts in the fields of climate science and policy.

V. Deliverables

Student teams will submit formally written policy proposals on the selected policy topic, drawing on available data and academic literature. Proposals should also include relevant cost estimates for the stated policies and guidelines for policy implementation. Monetary awards will be presented to those students whose submissions best exemplify effective policies, with a specific focus on impact, feasibility, and originality. Each team must provide three deliverables during the competition: a 2000-4000 word written policy proposal, a poster, and a presentation. Only one member of each team needs to submit each deliverable. However, the names of all team members must be included on all deliverables. The proposal and presentation will be directly graded by the judges panel; the poster will be used for the public gallery on the first day of the competition. Presentations will take place on the second day of the competition. Each team will have a fixed period of time to give their presentations and field questions from the judges panel.

A. Paper

The paper will contain the entirety of each team's policy proposal. It must address multiple points: the issue the policy seeks to address, the policy proposed, the justification for this policy, and the process for implementing this policy.

One suggested structure for the papers is as follows:

1. Introduction: provide a general overview of what will be discussed in the paper.
2. Background: what issue does this paper seek to address? Why is policy intervention necessary? What interventions, if any, have been attempted in the past?
3. Proposal: what is the suggested policy? Why is this policy preferable to other alternatives?
4. Policy Implementation: what are the estimated costs associated with implementing this policy? Where will funding for implementation come from? What barriers, if any, exist to the implementation of this policy?
5. Conclusion
6. Bibliography

Each paper submission must follow the following mandatory formatting requirements:

- Cover page with paper title, names of group members, university, and date
- 2000-4000 words long, excluding cover page and citations
- Formatted as a Word Document or pdf.
- Double spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt font
- Standard 1 inch margins
- Accepted citation styles: MLA and APA

The judges' rubric for the policy paper can be found later in this document.

B. Presentation

Each team will give a 15 minute, in-person presentation to a panel of judges. Presentations should be polished, engaging, and informative. This presentation must summarize the proposal presented in the paper, as well as provide a justification for the proposal's implementations. Presentations should be as close to 15 minutes as possible. At the end of each presentation, the team will field an additional 10 minutes of questions from the judges. The question period is an opportunity for teams to display their understanding of their policy and will play an important part in the grading of the presentation. The rubric for judges can be found later in the document.

C. Poster

Posters will be presented by teams during the in-person public gallery (Friday afternoon). Posters will not be judged or counted towards each team's competition score. However, the public gallery will provide teams with an opportunity to share their policy

proposals with their fellow students, faculty members, guests, and members of the media. Students are encouraged to visit other teams' posters to familiarize themselves with their work and recognize the effort given by each team. However, it is expected that at least one member of each team will be available at any given time at their team's poster to field questions from visitors. The poster will be printed by conference staff in advance of the competition. Posters must be designed to be 36" x 24" when printed.

VI. Rubrics

Each team's paper and presentation will be considered in the judging process. Both deliverables will be graded according to the rubrics below. Teams may score a maximum of 65 points on their paper and a maximum of 35 points on their presentation. The individual scores from each deliverable will be added together, for a maximum score of 100. Teams will be ranked from highest cumulative score to lowest. In the event of a tie, the judges will convene to resolve the tie.

A. Paper

Papers will be graded on a scale of 1-65 based on the following rubric. Each point earned will go towards the team's cumulative score. Each judge will individually score each team's papers. The average of the judges' scores will be the team's final score on each deliverable. Scoring from the judges will be anonymous. However, at the end of the competition, teams will be given their scoring sheets as well as feedback from the judges.

Points	Category	Criteria
5	Structure	Does the paper follow the given formatting requirements? Is the paper broken down into clear subsections? Does the paper's structure enhance the paper's persuasion? Are citations accurate and complete?
15	Knowledge of the issue	Does the paper illustrate that considerable research was conducted to understand the issue addressed by the policy? Does the paper present a deep and nuanced understanding of the issue?
15	Justification	Does the paper provide significant evidence that the proposed policy is a strong solution?
5	Originality of the policy	Is the policy a unique and original idea? Have similar policies already been implemented or suggested?
15	Feasibility of the policy	Is the proposed policy realistic? Does the proposal take into account possible barriers to implementation such as funding? To what extent does the team effectively navigate these barriers to make their policy more viable?

10	Impact	Will the policy create the greatest impact possible for its targeted implementation? To what extent will the policy create a great positive impact given implementation constraints? As a note to judges: We encourage teams to pursue policy on a variety of levels, from municipal to provincial. Each policy should aim to have a significant impact for its scale.
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B. Presentation

Presentations will be graded on a scale of 1-35 based on the following rubric. Each point earned will go towards the team's cumulative score.

Points	Category	Criteria
5	Timing	5 points: within 30 seconds of 15:00 3 points: within 60 seconds of 15:00 1 point: within 120 seconds of 15:00
10	Delivery and Engagement	Is the presentation interesting and engaging? Is the team's delivery of the proposal easy to understand? Do all members of the team contribute equally to the presentation? Do all members display an understanding of the policy proposal?
10	Content	Does the team present all aspects of their policy in a straightforward, logical way? Is it clear what the policy is, why it is a strong solution, and what barriers to implementation the policy may face? To what extent is the team able to effectively summarize the information from the papers in their slides?
10	Questions	Are all members of the team prepared to answer questions from judges? Do responses provide new insights into the proposed policy? To what extent do teams expertly navigate questions and potential follow-ups from judges during the question period?

VI. Judges

The AUPCC deliverables will be judged by four experts in the fields of climate change and policy. One judge will come from each participating university (Acadia University, Mount Allison University, and St. Francis Xavier University) and the fourth judge will be an independent expert. Judges will be announced in October 2024.

VII. Dates and Deadlines

JUNE 1 – Draft rules and rubrics released

AUGUST 1 – Final rules and rubrics released

SEPTEMBER 10 – Competition is launched on participating campuses, team registration window opens, paper submission window opens, final competition schedule released

SEPTEMBER 25 – Team registration window closes

OCTOBER 4 – Paper submission window closes

OCTOBER 14 – Participating teams announced, papers sent to judges for review

OCTOBER 30 – Presentation and poster submission deadline

NOVEMBER 1-2 – In-person competition held at Mount Allison University

VIII. Submissions

All PAPERS are due by 11:59 P.M. ADT on Friday, October 4, 2024. Papers must be submitted by email to aupcc@mta.ca and meet the content and formatting requirements previously stated. **All PRESENTATIONS and POSTERS are due by 11:59 P.M. ADT on Wednesday, October 30, 2024.** Presentations must be submitted by email to aupcc@mta.ca and be formatted as either a PowerPoint presentation or a pdf file. Competition organizers will provide the technology required to display presentations. Student teams will have an opportunity to practice with the on-campus presentation technology before judging begins. Posters must be submitted by email to aupcc@mta.ca and must be formatted as a pdf. They must be formatted to print to be 36”x24”.

IX. Integrity and Misconduct

All policies and deliverables must be the work of the student team members submitting them. A failure to meet this requirement may be classified as competition misconduct. Examples of misconduct include, but are not limited to: plagiarism, submitting policies or deliverables used in another competition or in course work, and failing to cite resources used to create policies or deliverables. Teams are not permitted to use artificial intelligence programs, including ChatGPT, during any part of the competition process. Failure to uphold competition integrity may be grounds for disqualification from the AUPCC at the discretion of the judging panel.

X. Event Schedule

Friday, November 1st, 2024

12PM - 2PM	Team arrival and check-in
1:30PM-2PM	Information session
2PM - 3PM	Public gallery presentations for students, faculty, judges, & media
5:30PM - 6PM	Opening ceremony
6PM - 7PM	Banquet
7PM - 8PM	Keynote Speaker
8PM - 9:30PM	Team practice session

Saturday, November 2nd, 2024

8AM - 9:30AM	Breakfast
9:30AM - 9:55AM	Team check-in
10AM - 12PM	Team presentations
12PM-1:30PM	Lunch break
1:30PM - 3PM	Team presentations (cont.)
3:30PM-4PM	Award ceremony

XI. Contact

Please field any question, concerns, or points of clarification regarding the AUPCC rules and competition to the conference email address, aupcc@mta.ca.

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