



2026 MEA Annual Meetings Undergraduate Research Proposal Guidelines

The Midwest Economics Association (MEA) invites submissions of undergraduate student research proposals for designated undergraduate sessions at the MEA's 89th annual meetings, to be held March 20-22, 2026 at the **Hyatt Centric Chicago Magnificent Mile** in Chicago, Illinois. Recent graduates may also submit undergraduate research. An undergraduate submission may be co-authored with an undergraduate student, however, only one student will be allowed to present. (If the undergraduate paper is co-authored with a faculty member or graduate student, the paper should be submitted to the general pool of abstract submissions.)

To be selected for presentation in the undergraduate sessions, students must provide a three- to five-page research proposal as a double-spaced pdf document.

The deadline for submission of Undergraduate Research Proposals is December 1, 2025.

The proposal should contain the following:

1. Your research question.
2. A review of two papers closest to what you are planning to do yourself. This review should be no more than 2 pages of your research proposal.
3. Explain the research plan; that is, how do you plan to replicate or extend the work you have reviewed? Explain your research plan; that is, how do you plan to replicate or extend the work you have reviewed? What economic models are the focus of your analysis? What research methods will enable you to compare the validity of alternative models? For example, will you use econometrics, simulations, or experimental evidence to test the economic model against the real world?
4. Add information about the research resources or data that you have that will enable you to explore your research question. Indicate whether you already have the data and if so, please describe it in detail.
5. Indicate what results you expect to have by the MEA meetings. If accepted, you will be assigned to a 4-paper session with other undergraduate students. A faculty member will be assigned to prepare a brief discussion of your paper following your presentation. You will have 15-20 minutes to present your research and there will be 5-10 minutes for discussion.

Note: Students must pay a \$20 submission fee to submit a paper. If accepted for presentation at the MEA Conference, students must also pay a \$50 registration fee to attend.

The MEA will award \$200 for the best undergraduate student paper presented at the meetings.