



2027 MEA Annual Meetings Undergraduate Research Proposal Guidelines

The Midwest Economics Association (MEA) invites undergraduate students to submit research proposals for designated undergraduate sessions at the MEA's 91st annual meetings, to be held April 2-4, 2027 at the **Hyatt Regency Indianapolis** in Indianapolis, Indiana. 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 submit **one** of the following, as a double-spaced PDF document.

Option A: A research proposal (3–5 pages, excluding references and title page), containing:

1. Your research question and why it matters.
2. How your work builds on or departs from the existing literature, and what you see as its potential contribution.
3. Your empirical or theoretical strategy: the model(s) or framework you will use, and, if applicable, your identification strategy and methodology.
4. A description of your data (if applicable): its source, time frame, coverage, and the level of variation it contains (e.g., cross-sectional, time-series, panel, within-firm/individual), and specifically how this variation will allow you to answer your research question. If you do not yet have the data in hand, describe your plan for obtaining it and your timeline for doing so.
5. The current state of your work and what you expect to complete by the MEA meetings.

Option B: A draft of the paper itself. Complete or preliminary drafts are welcome.

Submissions should include an abstract of 100–200 words and, at a minimum, an introduction motivating the question, a discussion of the related literature, a description of the data and methodology, and a presentation and discussion of results, which may be preliminary. The main text may not exceed 25 pages, including the abstract, references, figures, and tables. An appendix with additional tables or figures does not count toward this limit.

Both options must include a title page with the paper or proposal title, the name(s) and institutional affiliation(s) of the author(s), and the date. In a footnote on the title page, please

identify the course, thesis, or independent study under which the work is being conducted, and the name of the supervising instructor or advisor. The same footnote must include a statement describing any use of generative AI tools in the research or writing, or stating that none was used.

The deadline for submission of Undergraduate Research Proposals is December 1, 2026.

If accepted, you will be assigned to a 4-paper session with other undergraduate students. Each presentation will be assigned a discussant for a 5-10 minute discussion. You will have 15-20 minutes to present your research.

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 \$400 for the best undergraduate student paper presented at the meetings.