

Industry Competitions

2026 – 27 Academic Year

Challenge students’ skills and creativity through competitions that foster innovation and collaborative solutions. Design your own competition, serve as a judge or mentor, or sponsor an existing event.

AI

BGC AI in Finance Competition

Jan 22, 2027

Teams build AI models to tackle investment challenges — portfolio optimization, risk assessment, or trading strategy — judged on accuracy and real-world impact.

Vibe Coding Challenge

Jan 22–24, 2027

Cross-major teams use AI tools to design and ship a working solution to a real-world problem; this year focused on AI applications in healthcare.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

College New Venture Challenge

November 2026

UChicago’s flagship venture launch competition, where students plan and pitch real businesses — not just ideas — in a live setting.

GOVERNMENT, POLICY & SECURITY

Foreign Policy & Int’l Relations Competition

Oct 15, 2026

Teams of 4 use AI to research and present a U.S. foreign policy proposal, judged by an employer partner who selects the winning team.

Geopolitics & Int’l Trade Policy Competition

Jan 21, 2027

Students develop AI-assisted proposals on how U.S. policymakers can promote international trade and strengthen geopolitical stability.

AI in Local Government Policy Competition

Apr 8, 2027

Teams propose solutions to AI and digital transformation challenges in state government, presenting to an employer partner judge.

UChicago Impact Competition

May 7, 2027

Students brainstorm solutions to pressing community issues, competing through an executive summary and live presentation before a partner judge panel.

TECH

UChicago Game Jam

January 2027

Artists, designers, writers, and programmers team up over a single weekend to design and build an original playable game from scratch.

Vibe Coding Hackathon

Jan 22–24, 2027

Coders and non-coders collaborate using AI to imagine and ship real solutions to industry challenges over an intensive multi-day sprint.

UChicago Tech Showcase

Winter & Summer 2027

Students develop a technical project over several weeks and present to expert judges — building portfolio-ready work to share directly with employers.

FINANCE

AI-Enabled Investing Competition

Sep 18, 2026

Students build real-time AI models to propose investment recommendations, coached by industry leaders in AI-driven finance.

National Restructuring Case Competition

Oct 16, 2026

Teams develop restructuring recommendations for industry expert judges; top finishers earn cash prizes and guaranteed firm interviews.

Fixed Income Investment Competition

Nov 6, 2026

Teams of 3–4 conduct in-depth research to present a comprehensive fixed income investment recommendation to industry professionals.

College VC Investment Competition

Winter 2027

Students act as VCs, evaluating real startup pitches and presenting an investment strategy to a panel of practicing venture capitalists.

BGC IB Deal Pitch Challenge

Jan 22, 2027

An IB acquisition deal pitch that showcases students’ IB skills in valuation, strategic rationale, and deal structuring.

First-Year Stock Pitch Competition

Feb 12, 2027

First-year students analyze and pitch a public equity investment, supported by prep workshops, mentorship, and office-hour coaching.

Distressed Bond Pitch Competition

Mar 31, 2027

Students evaluate a single distressed bond and deliver a targeted credit investment recommendation to a panel of industry experts.

UChicago Trading Competition

Apr 9–10, 2027

The nation’s premier algorithmic trading competition — students develop and stress-test automated trading algorithms across multi-theme case studies.

Stock Pitch Competition

Apr 16, 2027

Teams of 3–4 analyze and present a public equity investment opportunity, demonstrating research, valuation, and communication skills.

Brevan Howard Digital Assets Competition

Apr 23, 2027

Students build mock digital asset portfolios and run cross-exchange arbitrage simulations, with senior Brevan Howard executives joining for networking.

PE Deal Pitch Competition

May 14, 2027

Teams of 3–4 create a deal memo and investment recommendation for a company of their choice, showcasing financial acumen and strategic thinking.

CLIMATE & ENERGY

Climate Case Competition

Spring 2027

Students critically investigate a real, modern-day climate problem posed by a partner organization and present evidence-based solutions.

CONSULTING

Bain & Co. Case Competition

Spring 2027

Teams of 4–6 tackle a live client-style business challenge over 3–4 weeks, developing strategic recommendations just like a Bain engagement team.

CORPORATE STRATEGY

Morningstar Strategy Challenge

Feb 19, 2027

Teams analyze a real-world corporate business case and present an AI-powered strategic recommendation, mirroring the decisions senior corporate leaders face daily.

PHYSICAL SCIENCES

Physics, Chemistry & Math Competitions

Spring 2027

Students apply technical coursework to career-focused competitions across physics, chemistry, and mathematics, competing for prizes.

RURAL INNOVATION

ADM Rural Innovation Challenge

April 9, 2027

Students develop ventures or innovations that strengthen rural communities through economic growth, job creation, or quality-of-life improvements.

SPORTS

Sports Business Competition

Apr 16, 2027

Teams develop a strategy to take U.S. sports international, applying skills in sports management, marketing, and analytics to a real-world challenge.