

The 2026 Herman and Myrtle Goldstein Graduate Student Paper Competition

COMPETITION GUIDELINES

I. Introduction

The Herman and Myrtle Goldstein Graduate Student Paper Competition, which is held under the auspices of the C6 Membership Board, is consistent with the goals and objectives of AATCC. The 2026 competition will consist of Graduate (Master's and Doctoral) submittals only. Oral Presentations will be made at the AATCC International Summit on October 4, 2026 at the Hotel Ballast Wilmington (North Carolina, USA).

II. Purpose and Scope

"To increase knowledge of the application of colorants, chemicals, and polymers in the Textile Industry."
"To encourage in any practical way research work on textile design and coloration, chemical processes, and materials of importance to the Textile Industry."
"To establish for the members channels by which the interchange of professional knowledge among them may be increased." (*Quoted from the AATCC Constitution.*)

To enhance the textile education experience for student members of AATCC. The intent is to encourage independent student research both within the USA and Internationally.

III. Participation

A project and appropriate results may be submitted by any graduate student who is a member of AATCC.

Graduate student entries must include work completed as a graduate. All papers will be prescreened by the competition chair to ensure that they meet 60% of the written evaluation total (maximum points achievable on the written manuscript are 120). The top four entries will be eligible to present their research at the AATCC Annual Conference. Individuals will have 15 minutes to present their paper on-site at the Hotel Ballast Wilmington, NC, in conjunction with the 2026 AATCC International Summit. The top four selected Graduate students are be **required** to be personally present and present their research at the conference to be considered for the competition. Papers must be unpublished at time of abstract submittal; **Previously published papers are not eligible for entry into the competition.**

Graduate students will be judged and scored based on their paper and on-site oral presentation. The student may seek the advice of persons in industry or academia, but the preponderance of the work should belong to the student and the role of these academic or industrial advisors or any other nonstudent must be no more than advisory. Therefore, nonstudents can only be listed on the byline as co-author with a notation in parenthesis that the nonstudent was an advisor to the work.

IV. Subject Matter

The project may be on any subject matter that falls within the limitations set forth in the purpose and scope, and which provides elements of scientific value, practical value, and originality.

V. Preparation and Presentation

The preparation of the manuscript and other details of the technical paper shall be done in accordance with the requirements for manuscripts submitted for publication in *AATCC Review*. The length of the paper shall not exceed 10 pages. The 10-page limitation includes all text, figures, tables, references, and other matter in the paper. **The final date for acceptance of papers is June 1, 2026. Papers arriving later than June 1, 2026, are not eligible for consideration in the competition.** Papers should be submitted in a Word Document via email to membership@aatcc.org.

A non-exclusive copyright form containing the student and advisor's signature must be submitted with the written manuscript.

For presentation, the top four scoring paper writers will be notified in July, 2026, and will have to prepare a 15-minute presentation to present on-site at the 2026 AATCC International Summit on October 4 at The Hotel Ballast Wilmington in Wilmington, NC, USA. Students selected to attend will receive complimentary conference registration but will be responsible for arranging travel, transportation, lodgings, and meals if not provided by the conference. Awards will be announced on October 6 at the Awards Luncheon.

VI. Judging

Papers submitted will be pre-screened by the Chair of the Herman & Myrtle Goldstein Graduate Student Paper Competition Committee. They must score at least 60% or higher in the written part (maximum points achievable on the written manuscript are 120) before being judged by a panel of judges selected by the Chairs of the AATCC Interest Groups. The panel of judges will evaluate the pre-screened papers to select **the top 4 papers** for the competition. The selected students will be notified about their selection so they can prepare for the oral competition.

Judging will be based on both the written manuscript and the oral presentation. The maximum points achievable on the written manuscript are 120. The following is a breakdown of the scoring criteria:

Originality (30 total)

1. Selection of Research Topic (10)
2. Experimental Method (10)
3. Conclusions (10)

Scientific Value (35 total)

1. Proof (14)
2. Technique (14)
3. References (7)

Practical Value (30 total)

1. Pertinence (10)
2. Application (10)
3. Ease (10)

Write-up (25 total)

1. Clarity (9)
2. Arrangement (8)
3. Literary Merit (8)

Only those entries that consist of individual Graduate students will be considered for the student paper competition.

The maximum point value assigned to the oral presentation is 40. The judging criteria include:

- 1) Clarity of presentation (12 points),
- 2) Technical content (14 points),
- 3) Effective use of visual aids (10 points) and
- 4) Effective use of presentation time (4 points).

Oral presentations must only include material covered in the written manuscript, not any post work. If the oral presentation includes any work not included in the submitted written paper, it will constitute disqualification from the competition.

VII. Awards

Monetary awards will be given for the following:

- 1st place - \$1,000.00
- 2nd place - \$ 800.00
- 3rd place - \$ 600.00
- 4th place - \$ 400.00

Note on AI Usage: AATCC requires competition entries to self-generated, but recognizes AI is an increasingly common academic tool. Students are encouraged to limit AI usage for their written or oral content and should collaborate with research group peers and professors for support on their abstracts, papers, and presentations. AATCC reserves the right to evaluate papers and disqualify entrants if AI is determined to have generated abstracts, paper, or presentation content. Students are encouraged to work in documents that share typing or progress (such as online Word or Google Docs) so that in the case their paper comes under review they are able to demonstrate their work.

If there are questions about AI usage, please contact membership@aatcc.org.