**2021 FINRA Foundation/ACCI**

**Undergraduate Student Competition**

*Presented by:*

**FINRA Investor Education Foundation**

**American Council on Consumer Interests**



First Prize: $1,000

Second Prize: $750

Each student winner also receives:

* 2021 Conference registration for the students and faculty advisor
* One-year of ACCI membership

Students are encouraged to work in teams to develop a research plan, the results of which can be portrayed as a 4 slide and video to be presented at the ACCI Annual Conference, May 18-20, 2021, to be held virtually.

# Topics

Topics should generally align with ACCI’s mission devoted to consumer well-being and the FINRA Foundation’s mission to empower underserved Americans with the knowledge, skills and tools to make sound financial decisions throughout life.

The 2021 Conference theme is ***Next Gen Consumer Well Being.***

A committee of ACCI members and FINRA Foundation staff will review submissions.

# Competition Rules

1. **Team Information**
	* Teams are encouraged to visit the ACCI Website, [www.ConsumerInterests.org](http://www.ConsumerInterests.org) to learn more about the mission, vision, and goals of ACCI.
	* Each team may consist of one (1) to three (3) undergraduate students who are taking at least nine (9) credit hours in 2020-2021 as per the registrar’s records. Teams may be comprised of any composition of majors.
	* Teams must have a faculty advisor who is a current member of ACCI, and this faculty advisor will be the only correspondent with the ACCI office.
	* Students do not have to be current members of ACCI.
	* There is no limit to the number of teams that may apply per university or college.
	* Faculty should submit their team’s *Intent to Participate Form* **no later than March 5, 2021**.
	* Finished *Project Slides and Project Form* are due **no later than April 2, 2021.**
2. **Evaluation and Notification Timelines**
* A *Sample Judging Form* is attached for your reference.
* Winning and second-place team will be notified on or about **April 30, 2021**.
* Instructions on how to prepare the final presentation will be available soon on the 2021 conference webpage: <http://www.consumerinterests.org/conference-2021>.
* Conference attendance, by at least one team member from the first and second-place teams, is required, and includes presentation of the poster as described online during the conference.

**Questions concerning content**

Dr. Yunhee Chang, Competition Committee Chair, chang@olemiss.edu

**Questions concerning logistics**

ACCI Executive Director, Judith Tilton

jtilton@consumerinterests.org or (727) 940-2658 x 2002

## Intent to Participate Form – Due March 5, 2021

Send this form by email to the following:

* Dr. Yunhee Chang – chang@olemiss.edu and
* Jenn Breitenbach, ACCI Executive Assistant – admin@consumerinterests.org

Draft or Final Title: Click or tap here to enter text.

Faculty Advisor Information

Name: Click or tap here to enter text.

University: Click or tap here to enter text.

Telephone: Click or tap here to enter text.

Email: Click or tap here to enter text.

Student Names, academic year (freshman, sophomore, etc.), email, phone, course of study, and degree seeking:

## Final Submission – Due April 2, 2021

Send this by email to the following two:

* Dr. Yunhee Chang – chang@olemiss.edu
* Jenn Breitenbach, ACCI Executive Assistant – admin@consumerinterests.org

[ ]  Finished PowerPoint is attached.

Title: Click or tap here to enter text.

250 Word Abstract: Click or tap here to enter text.

Submit the PowerPoint template of four slides as follows without school names, names of advisors or students.

 Slide 1. Introduction/purpose of the study

* + - Empirical studies should provide a clear statement of the goals of the research or the hypothesis the study tested. Explain the need for the study.
		- Non-empirical studies should focus on the reason for the study.

 Slide 2. Methodology

* + - Empirical studies: Describe the study design and study participants (include the manner of sample selection, number, and gender of participants). Describe methods in sufficient detail to allow the reader to judge their accuracy, reproducibility, and reliability. If this is an evaluation study, describe the intervention.
		- Non-empirical studies may be policy reviews, recommendations for education standards and/or program directions and should focus on the relevance of the topic for an ACCI audience.

 Slide 3. Results

* + - Empirical studies should identify the major findings or preliminary results.
		- Non-empirical studies should focus on implications and possible outlets for dissemination of findings.

 Slide 4. Conclusion/Future research implications

* + - A brief and focused statement of the main inferences drawn from results, the potential application of findings and relevance to the consumers’ interest.

## Sample Judging Form

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Category | Review Criteria | Rating (5 = high, 1 = low) | Weight | Score(rating x weight) |
| Portrayal of Information on the poster | * Does it convey the intent and purpose of the project in a logical and coherent manner?
 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 1 | X2 |  |
| Abstract | * Briefly summarizes the purpose of the research/study.
 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | X 2 |  |
| Introduction | * Does the introduction explain clearly and precisely the purpose of the study?
* Is significance of the study supported by previous research?
 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | X 3 |  |
| Methodology | * Empirical study – Is the study design and participants described in sufficient detail to demonstrate accuracy, reproducibility, and reliability?
* Non-empirical study – Is the relevance of the study to an ACCI audience clearly described?
 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | X 5 |  |
| Results | * Empirical study – Were major findings clearly identified?
* Non-empirical study – Are implications of the study relevant to an ACCI audience?
 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | X 5 |  |
| Conclusion | * Are main inferences drawn from the results clearly articulated?
* Is the application of findings logical?
* Is the conclusion relevant to the consumer interest?
 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | X 3 |  |
| Implications | * Are implications justified based on results of the study?
 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | X 2 |  |
| Comments: | Total score |