

Call for Submissions: Theodore Clevenger Undergraduate Honors Conference

The 36th annual Theodore Clevenger Undergraduate Honors Conference (UHC) will take place during the Southern States Communication Association's 96th Annual Convention in Birmingham, AL, April 8-12, 2026, at the Sheraton Birmingham Convention Center. The UHC provides an opportunity for undergraduate students to present their research and engage in conversations about scholarship and future research topics with faculty and other students. The goals for UHC include supporting excellence in undergraduate scholarship and creative activity, providing opportunities for networking, and allowing students the chance to explore options for graduate study. Undergraduate students are invited to submit papers and digital and/or applied projects for UHC on any topic relevant to the study of human communication or mass communication. Submissions are welcome from all subdisciplines and methodological approaches in the field of communication. We especially welcome papers or projects that connect to the conference theme, "Comm-AI-inity: Conversations in the Age of Intelligence" or PR campaign projects relevant to the city of Birmingham. Undergraduate students from all types of institutions are invited to submit.

Deadline: The submission deadline for the UHC is December 15, 2025, at 11:59pm Central Time.

Submission Guidelines:

- Any student currently enrolled as an undergraduate is eligible to submit a paper or project, but only ONE submission is permitted per student, whether submitted individually or as a group. Papers with faculty or graduate student coauthors ARE NOT eligible for submission to UHC.
- In the case of coauthored papers or projects, one student must be designated as the submitting/presenting author.
- Submissions from anyone other than the author(s) will disqualify the paper or project from review.
- All submissions must be original and cannot have previously been presented at SSCA, or any other state, regional, or national academic conference. Presentations to a university class or as a part of a university-hosted research symposium do not preclude submission to the UHC.
- Papers and projects should be the original work of the student. Papers generated in part or in full by AI tools and/or papers with evidence of plagiarism will be disqualified from review.
- Papers and projects that involve human subjects should either be approved by a university Internal Review Board or by the course instructor prior to submission.
- **Important: Submission of a paper or project implies the author's commitment to register, pay for, and fully participate in the conference if the paper or project is accepted.** Attending and presenting competitively selected research at a conference is an honor. Failure to attend after acceptance is a breach of professional ethics.
- We encourage students accepted to the conference to attend other panels at the conference, as well as the Saturday morning UCH breakfast.

Additional Guidelines for Paper submissions:

- Papers must be double-spaced, 12-point font, and formatted with standard one-inch margins.
- Papers should not exceed 25 pages total (including notes, references, figures, tables) and should include an abstract of 100-150 words.
- Papers should adhere to a standard style manual (APA, Chicago, or MLA) and should follow that style manual's guidelines for avoiding biased language.
- Papers should be anonymized. Names of authors and their institutions should not appear anywhere in the paper, including in the paper's properties or metadata.

Additional Guidelines for Project submissions:

- Depending on the format and medium of the project, students can choose to upload the whole project in the online system OR prepare a written description of the project and include sample images or screenshots.
- Projects in video form (such as student films) may be submitted as YouTube links and should not exceed 10 minutes.
- Slide decks are not acceptable as digital projects or as a mechanism for submitting other projects.

All papers and projects should be submitted through the online submission site, following all of the guidelines listed there:

<https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member/>. If you have any questions, please contact UHC Planner and SSCA 2nd Vice President Dr. Leland Spencer at SpenceLG@sc.edu. Please be sure to include "UHC Submission Question" in the subject line.