

Conference for Student Scholars at Two-Year
Colleges in the Mid-Atlantic Region
to be hosted ONLINE
by SUNY Westchester Community College
on June 5, 2026

2026 CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Submission Categories

Papers can be submitted in the following subject area categories:

- 1. Allied Health and Nursing
- 2. Anthropology
- 3. Arts
- 4. Biology
- 5. Business and Economics
- 6. Chemistry and Physical Sciences
- 7. Communications / Media Studies
- 8. Computer Science / Engineering
- 9. Education
- 10. Empirical and Field Research
- 11. Environmental Studies
- 12. History
- 13. Interdisciplinary Studies
- 14. International Studies / Globalization
- 15. Literature
- 16. Mathematics
- 17. Multicultural Studies
- 18. Philosophy and Religion
- 19. Political Science
- 20. Psychology
- 21. Social Justice
- 22. Sociology
- 23. Women's/Gender/LGBTQ Studies

The above categories may be modified based on submissions received. Accepted papers will be grouped into panels thematically and by discipline. Students should discuss the choice of the applicable categories with their faculty mentors and select them in the online Submission Portal.

Selection Process

Three faculty readers with expertise in the field will select three papers in each category to be presented at the conference. Additional papers will be selected for a poster session.

Approach

The methods and tools of research/analysis should be appropriate to the specific discipline. All submissions must show the results of research, reflection, and an original perspective.

Length

Maximum length of 5,000 words (excluding bibliography) for papers and 20 minutes for presentations.

After the last panel presentation, 30 minutes will be reserved for questions from the panel judge and the audience.

Format

- 1. Submit paper as MS Word file (not .pdf). Use Arial font size 12, double-space, one-inch margins. Number pages with Arabic numerals in the upper right-hand corner.
- 2. DO NOT include a title page. It will be automatically generated in the Submission Portal.
- 3. Name of student and college must NOT appear anywhere in the paper, but the title must be listed at the top of the first page of the essay text.
- 4. All work submitted must be completed by the student. Using generative artificial intelligence (AI) to produce text is **prohibited**. By submitting a paper, the student agrees that it will be checked for originality by the conference organizers using standard software.
- 5. Sources should be documented according to the guidelines of the discipline (MLA, APA, etc.).

Submission Process

Eligibility is determined by student's home institution. Papers must be submitted electronically through the Submission Portal at www.beaconconference.org.

DEADLINE: MARCH 6, 2026

Receipt confirmations will be sent to the student's and mentor's email addresses.

Award Criteria

A panel award winner in each category will be selected by the panel judge based on the quality and originality of research, written work, and oral presentation.

Awards

\$100 will be awarded to the panel award winner in each category. The student's faculty mentor will also receive an award.

Event Administrators

Prof. Mira Sakrajda

Email: mira.sakrajda@sunywcc.edu

Prof. Kent Trickel

Email: kent.trickel@sunywcc.edu

Conference Website

For more information visit www.beaconconference.org

