



ACM Student Chapter Excellence Awards Application

The ACM Student Chapter Excellence Awards Program recognizes chapters that display considerable initiative during the academic year. Chapters who apply must be in a good standing which includes having an active status, a complete chapter officer list and at least 10 chapter members on the Chapter Administrative Interface. There are five categories student chapters may choose from: Outstanding Chapter Activities, Outstanding Chapter Website, Outstanding Recruitment Program, Outstanding Community Service, or Outstanding School Service. **Please submit separate applications for every category your chapter is applying for. Hand-written submissions will not be accepted.**

Application must be submitted to local_activities@acm.org by **March 23, 2018**. In the subject line please state your chapter name and the category for which you would like your chapter to be considered.

The last section of this application will require an essay. Please review the guidelines below for the category you are applying to.

Outstanding Chapter Activities

For ACM student chapters that sponsor a series of exceptional activities throughout the year or have focused their efforts on a single major activity. Tell us about your chapter's most successful activities. Be sure to describe each activity, including how many people participated, how it was funded, and what made it a success. If you have web pages for these activities, include the URLs.

Outstanding Chapter Website

For ACM student chapters that maintain an outstanding chapter website. Tell us about the design and content of your website and any noteworthy features. Also tell us how you created it and what you do to keep it up to date. Don't forget to provide the URL so the judges can check it out.

Outstanding Recruitment Program

For ACM student chapters that have done an excellent job of recruiting chapter members. Tell us about your recruiting program. How do you let students at your school know about your chapter and how do you get them interested in joining? What factors are most critical to your success? How many members does your chapter have?

Outstanding Community Service

For ACM student chapters that have made significant contributions to their communities through one major service project or a series of smaller projects. Tell



us about each project, who it served, and how many people participated. Why was your chapter interested in these particular projects? If you have web pages for these projects, include the URLs.

Outstanding School Service

For ACM student chapters that have made significant contributions to their own schools through one major service project or a series of smaller projects. Tell us about projects that help your fellow students, your department, or your school in general. Tell us about each project, how many people participated, and how it helped your school. If you have web pages for these projects, include the URLs. (Note, if you have worked on projects to help other schools, for example neighboring high schools, apply for the Community Service award rather than the School Service award.)



ACM Student Chapter Excellence Awards Application

Chapter Group ID: 90844
Name of Chapter: UCLA ACM
Chapter Address: Boelter Hall 2763, UCLA, Los Angeles, 90095
URL for your Chapter homepage: http://acm.cs.ucla.edu
Category you are applying for: Outstanding School Service

Chapter Officers

Chair Name: Mihir Mathur
Email: mihirmathur@ucla.edu
Vice Chair: Jennifer Liaw
Email: jennifer.liaw07@gmail.com
Treasurer: Yun Xu
Email: yunx96@gmail.com
Faculty Sponsor: David A. Smallberg
Email: das@cs.ucla.edu
Secretary (if applicable): _____
Email: _____
Membership Chair (if applicable): _____
Email: _____
Web Master (if applicable): Nikhil Kansal
Email: nkansal96@gmail.com



Please provide a brief description of your chapter and school including number of chapter members (1500 character maximum):

“UCLA Samueli School of Engineering is a tightly knit community of 180 full-time faculty members, 3,500 undergraduate, 3,000 graduate students & 40,000 active alumni. Known as the Birthplace of the Internet, UCLA Samueli is also where countless other fields took some of their first steps—from artificial intelligence to reverse osmosis, from mobile communications to human prosthetics. We are consistently ranked in the Top 10 among U.S. public engineering schools.” (<http://engineering.ucla.edu/about/>)

Our chapter, UCLA ACM has grown to be one of the largest student-run tech organizations in Southern California with over 700 members. Our club is organized into 6 sub-groups:

ACM AI: To nurture curiosity and enthusiasm in artificial intelligence and machine learning.

ACM Interactive Studio: To create a community where developers interested in game, development and virtual reality can connect, learn and create.

ACM ICPC: To promote critical thinking and problem solving through practice and participation in programming competitions and hosting training sessions to get people ready for ICPC.

ACM Hack: To empower UCLA students to influence their world through code by teaching them mobile and web development.

ACM-W: To support and advocate for the full engagement of all who are interested in computer science. Additionally, ACM-W endeavors to increase all aspects of diversity in the technical field.

ACM Netsec: To foster a community for cybersecurity.

Number of students at your school who take computer science and related courses, and typical majors of your chapter members (1000 character maximum):

About 1200 undergraduates at UCLA are in Computer Science or related majors. However, many more majors take Computer Science courses at UCLA.

At UCLA ACM, we have over 700 members. Membership and our events are free for all students at UCLA. Our members come from a large set of majors such as:

Computer Science
Electrical Engineering
Mathematics of Computation
Linguistics
Physics
Statistics
Bioengineering
Design Media Arts
Civil Engineering
Business Economics
Computational & Systems Biology

We have developed our own portal for handling membership. Anyone with a UCLA email id can get an account at <https://members.uclaacm.com/> We use this portal for checking into our events and programs. Every event has points associated and we have a leaderboard that shows all members and our top members who participated in most events. We reward the top 10 members every quarter. We also have a list of resources on the membership portal.



An essay on the category for which your chapter would like to be considered (4000 character maximum - approximately 500 words):

UCLA ACM makes significant contributions to UCLA and its student community through a variety of programs and events.

UCLA ACM is the voice through which students communicate concerns and suggestions to the UCLA CS department. We release surveys, summarize the results and present them at board meetings with UCLA CS department staff and professors to suggest changes for the curriculum as well as for diversity and inclusion efforts. One huge change that was made recently in order to combat the low retention rates of introductory CS classes (taught in C++) was to introduce a pre-introductory course taught in Python. We also pushed for the introduction of a 'Learning Assistants' program that lets students teach their peers. These changes have helped freshmen students new to CS at UCLA avoid imposter syndrome when thrown into an introductory class with more advanced students who have prior exposure.

We talk with professors to improve and update courses. CS144: Web Applications course content was updated last year. We advocated for new CS courses. CS M146, Machine Learning, was introduced as a regular elective course last year. A new Human Computer Interaction course is being added to the CS course catalog (Fall 2018). Further, we recommended having a more flexible elective structure to the department. The restrictions on CS electives have now been completely removed. Other curriculum changes such as removing a Physics lab from the required courses were also initiated by us.

Another way we contribute to the school is by co-hosting "Women in Engineering Stayover Program" (WESP) for prospective UCLA Engineering women. Over the course of a weekend, current students host prospective students in UCLA dorms, show them what UCLA life is like, why we love being UCLA Bruins, and also attend fun activities with them. These activities include a technical panel, an exciting scavenger hunt, an ice cream sandwich party, a photobooth, and more. WESP leads to better retention rates of admitted women and thus contributes to making UCLA Engineering more diverse.

Another major area of service provided to UCLA's student community lies in the quarterly technical bootcamps taught by our officers. We take students from 0 to hero in 8 weeks in many different things. Our Quarter-long Training Programs in 2017-18:

Hack School: Our 8-week certificate program for learning Web Development (Javascript) or iOS. Avg. Attendance: 100. Curriculum and tutorials: <https://github.com/acm-hackschool-f17/>

Resources
Game Development with Unity: Weekly workshop series for learning how to create games. Avg Attendance: 20 We created videos for anyone to learn game development, anytime: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GqUyJ3tX6ew&list=PLz6icBCRxgTaeiO4Pz3THJXuSkZj1NoXa>
Machine Learning Workshops and Paper Reading Groups - Weekly meetups on a variety of AI/ML topics from learning Tensor Flow to Implementing Generative Adversarial Networks. Avg. Attendance: 40. Resources produced by our members: <https://github.com/uclaacmai>, <https://uclaacmai.github.io/>

Project A*: A weekly algorithm academy with lectures on algorithm topics followed by practice contests. Officers help out by debugging and pair programming. Avg Attendance: 20. Resources we created to train: <http://codeforces.com/group/XkrVYk14Kl/contests>

Web Security, Personal Security and Linux Workshops: Weekly workshop series on different areas in CyberSecurity. Avg Attendance: 20. Resources we created: <https://github.com/uclanetsec>

Moreover, our conference Founder's School (<http://uclafs.com/>) is one of Southern California's Largest Entrepreneurship conferences and connects founders to aspiring student entrepreneurs. Overall, UCLA ACM makes major contributions in service towards the benefit of fellow students as well as for the University.