

Poster Competition Details

Updated March 8, 2024

Competition Rules:

- Students should indicate interest in participating in the virtual poster competition by completing a Letter of Intent (LOI) form by **11:59PM CST** of the Step 1 deadline. (Please note: only one LOI is required per poster submission)
- Once students complete an LOI, they are welcome to begin submitting their posters and abstracts online through the poster and abstract submission form until **11:59PM CST** of the Step 2 deadline.
- The SPH poster template is not a required format. Students are encouraged to edit and optimize the template provided or use a different poster template that best fits the content they will be presenting. For tips and tricks on how to create a good poster, visit the SPH poster guide webpage [here](#).
- Students may enter any of the following confirmed competitions listed below.
- A link to the poster showcase will be published on the SPH website. Presenters should plan to monitor their posters and respond to questions from judges during Research and Scholarship Week.
- Poster awards will be announced by email and on the website when the event concludes.

For questions, visit the Poster Competition [FAQs](#), or contact us at sph-research@uic.edu.

Core Competition (Undergraduate, Master's and Doctoral):

Students are eligible to compete in the core competition if they meet one of the following requirements:

- Currently enrolled in an undergraduate degree program or minor within the School of Public Health; OR
- Currently enrolled as a degree-seeking student in the School of Public Health (Master's or Doctoral); OR
- Currently enrolled as a UIC degree-seeking student (Undergraduate, Master's, or Doctoral) AND conducted research or scholarship work in a SPH unit (e.g. IHRP, Collaboratory for Health Justice)

Selecting a competition track:

- **Public Health Research**
Research carried out in Schools of Public Health often primarily contributes to the general knowledge about a public health issue or concern. This knowledge then helps inform future efforts to address these issues or concerns.
- **Scholarly Public Health Practice**
The primary aim in scholarly public health practice is to directly help solve a public health problem as a collaborator or intervener.

Guidance for selecting a competition track: There is not always a clear distinction between scholarly public health practice and research. Both are scholarly and rigorous (for example, methods for collecting

and analyzing data or other information are described in detail, conclusions are based on evidence and appropriately qualified, etc.). To reiterate, scholarly public health practice usually will involve a primary focus on addressing a specific public health problem or practical need that has been identified as important by a particular partner organization or group in the community, whereas research will tend to involve a focus on contributing to general knowledge about a public health issue (e.g., hypothesis testing).

Awards will be given to each of the top posters in the Master's Scholarly Public Health Practice, Master's Public Health Research, Doctoral Scholarly Public Health Practice, and Doctoral Public Health Research categories. Each of the Master's and Doctoral competitions will also have an honorable mention.

Two awards will be given at the undergraduate level. *Please note that the undergraduate core competition may have specific criteria in addition to the core evaluation criteria.*

Additional Competitions:

Global Health Competition Award

Sponsored by the Global Health Program at the UIC School of Public Health, \$300 will be awarded to one Master's student and one Doctoral student who presents the highest scoring poster on a global health topic.

***Eligibility:** Open to SPH Master's or Doctoral level students.

Maternal and Child Health Competition Award

Sponsored by the Maternal and Child Health Program, \$250 will be awarded to one student who presents the highest scoring poster on a maternal and child health topic.

***Eligibility:** Open to students enrolled in the SPH Maternal and Child Health program (MCHP) or the SPH Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology program.

Policy, Practice, Systems and Environmental Change-Oriented Research Award

Sponsored by the Policy, Practice and Prevention Research Center (P3RC) at the UIC School of Public Health, \$300 will be awarded to one Master's student and one Doctoral student who presents the highest scoring poster on a policy, practice, systems, or environmental-change oriented research topic.

***Eligibility:** Open to SPH Master's and Doctoral level students.

Community Engaged Research Award

Sponsored by the Collaboratory for Health Justice (CHJ), these \$250 awards are to be given to one Master's level and one Doctoral level student in the School of Public Health. This award acknowledges notable research conducted in collaboration with community members to advance the priorities of a community group or community-based organization.

***Eligibility:** Open to SPH Master's or Doctoral students. Posters considered for the Community Engaged Research Award must be notable in at least one of the following ways:

1. Assets of the community are leveraged and / or enhanced by the research.
2. Community members are a crucial part of the research team or process (i.e., uses CBPR or PAR methods).
3. Research was designed or applied in order to change institutional or local policy or systems to address communities' identified needs.

Awards:

Competition	Number of Awards	Prize
Public Health Research <i>Top poster: Master's, Doctoral</i>	2	\$300
Scholarly Public Health Practice <i>Top poster: Master's, Doctoral</i>	2	\$300
Undergraduate Competition	2	\$300
Global Health Award <i>Master's, Doctoral</i>	2	\$300
Maternal and Child Health	1	\$250
Policy, Practice, Systems and Environmental Change-Oriented Research Award Master's, Doctoral	2	\$300
Community Engaged Research Award <i>Master's, Doctoral</i>	2	\$250