



Rules & Guidelines

OVERVIEW

The Illinois Innovation Prize (IIP) for \$20,000 is awarded annually to a creative and passionate student working towards innovative solutions that could have a positive societal impact. This prize is funded through The Grainger College of Engineering, but an eligible winner may be from any college on campus, and is not required to be a student of Grainger Engineering.

While other prizes may be focused on a team, course, or lab, this prize is focused on the individual's accomplishments through their innovative work. This document outlines information regarding the process, eligibility, rules, and guidelines supporting this prize.

STUDENT PROFILE

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is thrilled to have so many talented students making an impact on the world. This prize is intended to recognize a top performer in this regard, and looks for someone who:

- Is a creative and passionate innovator
- Is working on a novel innovation with potential to create a positive impact
- Inspires others

EXPECTATIONS OF WINNER

As a recognized innovator, it is expected that the winner help represent the innovation ecosystem following the announcement of the award. Some examples of how the student will participate are:

- Be a role model on campus
- Participate in promotional video for the program
- Speak about the program and its impact at information sessions and other events
- Attend 2021 IIP ceremony to participate in awarding the next year's winner, and speak about the impact the award had on their innovation

Program organizers will work with the winner to identify availability and schedule engagements that are a good match for interest and representation.

ELIGIBILITY

Student Eligibility | To be eligible to receive the prize, the student:

- Must be enrolled full-time, on-campus at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for the full academic year
- Must be seeking a degree at Illinois as an undergraduate student, master's student, or PhD candidate
- Must be the primary researcher, founder, or inventor on works cited

Work Cited | As part of the application process, the nomination and application will request information on the work that student has done. To be eligible, that student's work must:

- Be innovative in nature
- Be created, initiated, or founded by that student
- May not be someone else's work that the student is repeating or representing

APPLICATION PROCESS

The Illinois Innovation Prize requires a several step process to objectively identify the student.

- **Nominations** | The process begins with nominations only. Nominations are typically accepted through mid-January
- **Applications** | Eligible nominated students are invited to submit an application
- **Judging** | A panel of judges reviews the applications and selects students for in-person interviews
- **Interviews** | A select few applicants are invited to interview in front of a panel of campus judges
- **Prize Announcement** | The award recipient is announced during an awards ceremony at the Cozad New Venture Challenge finals event.

Applicants are expected to abide by the rules of the program and the campus integrity statement, a copy of which will be provided with the application materials. Details of each step of the process are outlined on the next page.

Rules & Guidelines, cont'd.

THE PROCESS

Step 1 | Nominations

Before a student may apply for the prize, that student must be nominated. Students may request an eligible nominator to nominate them. An eligible nominator may nominate an eligible student without a request from the student.

Nominations may be made by:

- Industry mentors
- Faculty or staff
- Community member

Nominations may NOT be made by:

- Staff of the Technology Entrepreneur Center
- Students
- The nominee

Step 2 | Applications

After students have been nominated and vetted for eligibility, students will receive an invitation to apply for the prize. Details of the application will be given at the time the invitations are sent, but are largely comprised of a resume, the response to prompted questions, and a list of references. Applications must be completed by the stated deadline, and will be reviewed by a panel of judges as below.

Step 3 | Judging

All student applications are reviewed by a panel of application judges, based on the following prize goals:

- To recognize a current student of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign who is: a creative and passionate innovator, working on a novel innovation with potential to create a positive impact, and a role model for others
- To generate excitement about innovation in students by showcasing top students on campus, and
- To highlight the significance of solving important problems and changing the world

Judging will also consider the student's passion for their work, their potential as a role model, the benefit their innovation brings to society or to solving an important problem, and how innovative their projects have been. For the purpose of judging, this is how we define **innovation**: *translating an idea or invention into a new method, process, idea or product.*

Step 4 | Interviews

A select few of the students who applied are invited to present in front of a small panel of interview judges as finalists for the prize. The presentations are typically ten minutes long with five minutes of Q&A. The panel of interview judges will use similar criteria as the application judges to evaluate the student's performance and overall qualifications. After all interviews are conducted, the judges will deliberate to determine the winner. All finalists will be announced shortly after the interviews, but the winner will not be announced until the awards ceremony.

Step 5 | Prize Announcement

The winner of the Illinois Innovation Prize is announced during the IIP awards ceremony at the Cozad New Venture Challenge finals day, typically held in mid-April. All finalists are expected to attend this lunch program to be recognized as finalists, and to join in the celebration and support of the winner. From among this group, one will be announced as the winner.

NEXT STEPS

Within a couple of weeks after the conclusion of the announcement, staff from the Technology Entrepreneur Center will get in contact with the winner to walk that person through the expectations of the winner as outlined on the prior page. As applicable, the winner will be scheduled to attend certain events to represent as an ambassador of the innovation ecosystem on campus.



Technology Entrepreneur Center

GRAINGER COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING