

Production and Operations Management Society

College of Sustainable Operations: Best Student Paper Competition

The Production and Operations Management Society (POMS) College of Sustainable Operations invites applications to the *2026 Student Paper Competition*.

The aim of the College of Sustainable Operations is to foster the creation and dissemination of knowledge to improve our understanding of the issues at the interface between sustainability and operations. The Student Paper Competition was started in 2010 to highlight the most promising doctoral student projects in the field of sustainable operations and provide visibility to the doctoral students carrying out this work.

The applications will be judged by the Award Committee. Up to four finalists will be selected. The proposals submitted for the competition will be evaluated based on the importance of the topic, the significance of the potential research contribution, and the appropriateness of the research approach. Up to two awards (a first-place award and a runner-up award) may be given upon recommendation of the Award Committee. For the 2026 competition, first place carries a cash award of \$600 and the runner-up \$300. All finalists will receive a free membership to the POMS College of Sustainable Operations for one year. Winners will be announced during the 2026 POMS Annual Conference.

There are four conditions for eligibility:

1. The applicant must be a doctoral student who has not yet defended his/her dissertation prior to December 31, 2025.
2. Only one paper can be submitted by an entrant. A student can submit a paper for a student competition only in one college. Multiple submissions of the same paper to different colleges will disqualify the submissions.
3. The submitted paper must present original research conducted primarily by the entrant. Some assistance by other individuals (such as the student's faculty advisor) is permitted as long as the student is the "first author" on the paper in principle. Research advisors must certify that the student's contribution to the paper exceeds 50%.
4. We invite papers concerning issues broadly related to social responsibility, environment as well as economic viability i.e., "People-Planet-Profit". For sample topics related to these themes and description of the sustainable operations area within the POM Journal, please go to <http://www.poms.org/journal/departments/>.

A complete application includes two main components:

1. A cover document (the file name should be the entrant's full name) including:
 - a. The doctoral student's name, current affiliation, e-mail address and phone number. To ensure a fair review process, **this information must not appear anywhere else.**
 - b. The title of the student paper.
 - c. A statement that all eligibility requirements have been met that is signed by the doctoral student and the student's supervisor.
2. A main document including:
 - a. A separate title page with an abstract of no more than 300 words. The title page should include the names and affiliations of **ALL** co-authors of the paper (not just the student and their supervisor).

- b. A student paper that adheres to the following guidelines:
 - i. A paper of no more than 32 pages including references, tables, and graphs.
 - ii. An appendix (if applicable) that is no more than 8 pages.

Application process:

Completed applications should be submitted electronically (as **.pdf** files) to the 2026 POMS College of Sustainable Operations Student Paper Competition Committee (poms.cso.2026@gmail.com).

Submission Deadline: February 20, 2026 at midnight (EST).

Please note that eligibility requirements as well as length, format, and submission deadline for the application will be strictly enforced.

For any questions about the competition, please contact co-chairs: Natalie Huang (natalie.huang@rutgers.edu) or Alp Sungu (alpsungu@wharton.upenn.edu).