

Student Poster Competition Rules

2026 Nebraska Water Conference

"The State of Water in Nebraska"

October 15 and 16, 2026

East Campus Union, University of Nebraska – Lincoln Campus

Hosted by the Nebraska Water Center

Register at go.unl.edu/2026WC

Undergraduate and graduate students are eligible for the monetary competition.

The following information will be required at registration:

- Name of presenter
- Presenter's complete contact information (phone, email, mailing address)
- Name of college or university the presenter attends
- Name(s) of others closely affiliated with presenter's work
- Poster title
- Up to 5 keywords
- Abstract of the research not to exceed 150 words. Include the state of work: completed or in-progress.

Posters should be no more than 48 inches wide x 36 inches high and printed in landscape orientation for competition. Smallest font size: 16

The schedule and format for the poster competition will be provided to participating students once registration closes. The competition format will include presentations to conference attendees and a panel of judges. Poster finalists may be asked to give an elevator speech-style presentation about their research during the reception.

Judging criteria for competition are as follows:

- Visual Appeal – Overall appearance of poster, attractiveness, draws the viewer in—20%
- Content – Enough to describe the research but not so much it's more an article than a poster. Effective use of visuals such as photos, graphs/charts—20%
- Organization – Logical, layout that adds to message conveyance—20%

- Abstract – Accurately and succinctly summarizes the poster (may be in program but not on poster, or both)—20%
- Conversation – Ability of student to describe and discuss work—20%

Prizes will be announced during the conference reception on Thursday, October 15. Winners will be required to be available at that time to accept prizes and have their photographs taken.

Prizes to be awarded:

- First Place -- \$500
- Second Place -- \$300
- Third Place -- \$200
- Fourth Place -- \$100
- Fifth Place -- \$100

To receive their monetary awards, winners will be required to provide their social security number or their UNL Personnel Number if currently paid by UNL. The prizes are taxable income.

To register for the Student Poster Competition, visit go.unl.edu/2026WC.

Questions? Contact Tricia Liedle, Nebraska Water Center, at 402-472-3305 or pliedle@nebraska.edu.