

Changemaker Challenge FAQs

1. Can I have a team with me?

Individuals can certainly receive help from friends, family, experts, etc. But we are allowing individual entries only for this virtual competition due to the nature of the scholarships offered.

2. What are the rules for the video entries?

- Maximum of 2 minutes for round 1. The Top 20 teams advancing to the final round will have 5 minutes.
- No fancy equipment needed – you can film right on your phones if you want. Teams will not be scored on production quality.
- Get to the point right away – this is an elevator speech meant to convey what problem you're addressing, how your idea solves it, and why someone should care.

3. Do I have to add additional materials?

They aren't required, but you're welcome to. Maybe that's a one-pager overview of your idea, a business plan, a spreadsheet detailing the costs, or some google slides or PowerPoint slides.

4. What if my idea fits into more than one special bonus category?

You will need to pick one. Pick the one that you feel best represents your idea. If you want guidance, don't hesitate to email uechangemaker@evansville.edu.

5. What kind of support will we receive?

The University of Evansville will connect any interested student to faculty who are experts on that topic, as well as practitioners in the field. UE will also provide virtual training on crafting a pitch, identifying the costs of your idea, and will continuously upload materials that will help. We can also connect contestants to current UE college students who might be able to help. If you are interested in taking advantage of this at any time, email uechangemaker@evansville.edu.

6. How are the Top 20 teams selected?

We will have a panel of judges for each division who will review all video entries and select the 20 best.

7. What are we scored on?

For the first round, students are being evaluated for whether or not the idea is: inspirational, innovative, sustainable, and communicated well. The Top 20 judging criteria will be released to the teams in that round.

8. Who can compete?

The competition is open to **junior or seniors in high school** (or the equivalent of those ages in another country).

9. Can home school students compete?

Of course!

10. What are the

prizes?:

- 1st place: Value of full tuition – renewable each year for 4 years – requires the student to live on campus (otherwise it will be the value of tuition minus \$10,000)
- 2nd place: Value of \$23,000 - renewable each year for 4 years.
- 3rd place: Value of \$18,000 - renewable each year for 4 years.

These awards would replace any other UE scholarship a student receives, and would not stack on top of them.

11. When will you announce the 20 teams that get to compete?

The deadline for Round 1 video entries is Tuesday, January 31st by midnight. The Judging will begin the next day and then close on Thursday, February 3rd. The Top 20 Finalists will be announced on Friday, February 4th by 5:00pm CST.

12. What do the Top 20 teams have to do after that?

UE will provide support for them to revise their pitch. Due to the significant nature of the scholarships, students are given more time to make their case. Round 2 videos can be (but don't have to be) up to 5 minutes in length. Finalist Prep Week will be 2/7-2/11. Students can update their pitches, practice as much as possible, and then the Finalist Round will be on Monday, February 15th, with the winners announced the same day. All contestants should save that date and keep it available.

13. What if I can't compete on February 15th?

All of the Top 20 students will be asked to confirm their availability to participate. If one of them can't, their spot will be given to an alternate.

14. Who can answer my questions about the challenge?

If a student or a parent has questions about the challenge, contact uechangemaker@evansville.edu.

15. Does our idea have to already be implemented or started to qualify for the challenge?

No. This competition is for any student who has an idea that can improve their community or make the world a better place. The idea should be researched well, the presentation effective, and an action plan considered carefully, but students are not expected to have implemented it. This is designed to encourage innovative thinking (but hopefully you'll act on it later)! UE will also provide training to all teams on social innovation, identifying the cost of their idea, and preparing a successful pitch. Information on this will be sent at a later date.

16. Does our presentation need to include a budget for the cost of our idea?

Budgets to execute projects are helpful to give a clear picture of your project scope and feasibility. Although full details are not required for the presentation, judges often have questions about budget issues so they can assess the feasibility and sustainability of your proposal. You'd be wise to research the costs of your idea and how to sustain it after any initial funding is obtained. UE offers assistance with this if any team is struggling.

17. What is the Top 20 competition like?

All students present an up to 5 minute virtual pitch about their idea, and then answer three minutes of follow-up questions from a panel of community leaders, experts in that division (often including the Mayor and the University of Evansville president). In addition, all students will have a chance to meet with talented UE professors and students about their interest areas, just to discuss career options and how to move their ideas forward. Regardless of the results of the competition, our entire UE community is committed to helping all students make a difference in the world. Previous teams have even stayed in touch with faculty after the competition to keep working on their idea.

18. How can I work on my idea after the competition?

As an Ashoka Changemaker Campus, UE strongly encourages all contestants to not give up on their idea - to keep working, pivoting, iterating, or whatever it takes. And for those who choose to come to the University of Evansville, you can receive class credit in our ChangeLab program, and keep working on it as a college student. Previous competitors have done this, and have been able to see their dreams become a reality. Visit www.evansville.edu/changelab to learn more.