Academic Festival 2027 Updates

Roane State Community College

Friday, April 2, 2027

Competition events begin at 9:30 a.m. Eastern Time (ET).

This guide summarizes the major Festival-wide updates for 2027. Sponsors should use the Sponsor Competition Quick Guide to explore events and always read the full directions for each individual competition before registering students or teams.

2027 at a Glance

- Festival date: Friday, April 2, 2027
- Competition events begin at 9:30 a.m. ET
- Registration and required pre-submission materials are due Friday, March 19, 2027, at 11:59 p.m. ET
- 2027 materials are being released earlier to better support both fall and spring block schedules
- One Microsoft registration form will be used for both individuals and teams

Deadline and Registration

Registration Is Simpler for 2027

- One guaranteed deadline: March 19, 2027, at 11:59 p.m. ET
- Sponsors complete registration for students and teams
- All required pre-submission materials are due by the same March 19 deadline
- The two-week review period gives event coordinators time to determine finalists and winners and, when appropriate, decide whether an event can reopen for late registration
- One Microsoft registration form will be used for both individual and team entries

Late Registration

March 19 is the guaranteed deadline. Do not plan on late registration.

- Some Day-of-Festival events may reopen after the deadline if space remains
- Sponsors will be notified during Festival week if any event reopens

Team Names

- Teams count as one Festival entry
- Teams of 2-4 students: use student last names as the team name. Example: Team Smith, Dalton, Carter, and Phillips
- Groups of 5 or more: use a clear group name. Example: Roane County High School Choir

Four-Event Maximum for Individuals and Teams

The four-event limit applies separately to each registered individual or team. A team may therefore work together across multiple eligible events, subject to each event's own entry limits and rules.

Option A

- 1 Day-of-Festival competition
- Up to 3 Pre-Submission competitions

Option B

- Up to 4 Pre-Submission competitions

> **Important: A student or team participating in a live Day-of-Festival competition cannot register for another live competition because runoffs and scheduling conflicts may occur.**

Competition Codes and Event-Type Labels

New Competition Codes

- Every competition now has a division abbreviation plus a number, such as ART01, BUS01, or CYBER01
- School codes use a county abbreviation plus a number, such as AN01 for Anderson County High School

Event-Type Labels

- Pre-Submission - Individual
- Pre-Submission - Group
- Day-of-Festival - Individual
- Day-of-Festival - Group
- Day-of-Festival - Individual or Group
- Pre-Submission Audition / Day-of-Festival Finalist - Individual or Group, when applicable

School Classification Change

- Division AA: 1-69 unique registered individuals/teams
- Division AAA: 70 or more unique registered individuals/teams
- Each individual or team counts once toward school classification, regardless of how many competitions that individual or team enters

Festival-Wide AI Guidance

- AI rules are event-specific. Always check the individual competition rules
- When permitted, AI should support - not replace - the student's own work
- Example: Creative Writing prohibits AI-generated writing, while some other competitions may specifically incorporate AI

Competition Updates

New and Renamed Competitions

- CYBER02 - AI Prompt Injection Challenge is a new competition
- History Jeopardy is now HIST01 - History & Geography Jeopardy

Journalism

- JOUR01 - Yearbook
- JOUR02 - Written Journalism
- JOUR03 - Sports Journalism
- JOUR04 - Digital Still Image Journalism
- JOUR05 - Digital Media Journalism

Submission note: All Journalism events are pre-submission competitions and are submitted through the Academic Festival SharePoint except Yearbook. Yearbooks must be placed in an envelope addressed to Sarah Self and delivered to the Harriman Campus OneStop, Dunbar Building, Room D-100, by the submission deadline.

Speech and Spanish

- Speech Storytelling theme: Fairy Tales. Sponsors should also review the current event directions for updated time limits
- Spanish Creative Video theme: Artificial Intelligence - Help or Hindrance? Students may make the case for either position

French

French has been streamlined from 11 competitions to five:

- FR01 - French Translation Level A

- FR02 - French Translation Level B
- FR03 - French Translation Level C
- FR04 - French Food Video
- FR05 - Francophone Travel Brochures

Dance

- Jazz has been removed
- Ballet, Modern, and Hip Hop remain
- Entry groupings: Solo/Duo/Trio and Groups of 4 or more

Music

Music now uses a pre-submission competition plus live showcase format. The four competition categories remain:

- MUS01 - Vocal Solo
- MUS02 - Instrumental Solo
- MUS03 - Vocal Ensemble
- MUS04 - Instrumental Ensemble

1. Submit the required pre-submission recording.
2. Faculty judges determine 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place from the submitted recordings.
3. Top performers are invited to perform live during the Festival showcase.

- If a top-three performer cannot attend, the next-ranked performer may be invited to the showcase
- The live showcase performance does not change the competition placement
- Eligibility remains tied to enrollment in a qualifying music course during the current academic year

Expanded Non-Competition Activities

- Cornhole in the Courtyard
- Little Learners to Big Thinkers Education Station
- Explore the Art Labs
- Additional food trucks
- Music Jam Session & Karaoke
- Science Fun Fair
- Rocks to Roots
- Scrubs and Skills - expanded to include all Health Science programs
- Short Film Viewing
- Wavemakers: Blue Economy in Action
- Fire Science
- Applied and Innovative Technology - new division

- Academic Festival Scavenger Hunt

Scavenger Hunt

- Visit interactive stops around campus
- Complete activities and explore programs
- Collect up to 10 raffle tickets
- Turn in tickets for prize drawings at the Awards Ceremony
- Participants must be present to win

Festival-Day Navigation

- Sponsors receive arrival, parking, and scheduling information before Festival Day
- Each participant receives a Festival booklet with schedules, locations, activities, and awards information
- Color-coded buildings and campus markings will make navigation easier

Awards and Certificates

First-Place Medallions

- Individuals and teams of 2-4: one medallion per student
- Teams of 5 or more: one team medallion

Certificates

- Certificates are awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place
- Individuals and teams of 2-4: one certificate per student
- Teams of 5 or more: one team certificate
- Certificates are distributed after names are verified following the Festival

Read the Individual Event Rules

Festival-wide rules are more standardized in 2027, but the individual event directions still control. Individual event rules determine eligibility, entry limits, team size, required materials, time limits, AI use, judging, and any event-specific procedures.

- Use the Sponsor Competition Quick Guide to explore events
- Read the full event directions before registering

Contact

Festival Questions

- Dr. Jessica Dalton-Carriger - dcarrigerjn@roanestate.edu
- Dr. Cody Miller - millersc2@roanestate.edu

Questions About Individual Events

You may contact Dr. Jessica Dalton-Carriger at dcarrigerjn@roanestate.edu or contact the event coordinator listed in the detailed division event directions.

2027 Festival Video Update

If you would like to watch a video update from Dr. Jessica Dalton-Carriger about the 2027 Academic Festival updates, please follow the link below.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1242rkG0h0Y-CgkCnZqK9BIaJJMAyZob2/view?usp=drive_link