



IARFC National Financial Plan Competition 2018

Details and Rules

ORIGIN: This Financial Plan Competition is developed and supervised by the *International Association of Registered Financial Consultants*, a non-profit Association of financial professionals.

ELIGIBILITY: The competition is open only to undergraduate students enrolled in a curriculum of personal financial planning or financial services in a University or College in the U.S.A. and International Chapters per invitation.

SPONSORSHIP: The Plan Competition may have one or more corporate sponsors whose name(s) will be announced, and may be interested in interviewing the winning students.

REGISTRATION FEE: All participating Colleges or Universities will be charged a \$100 registration fee. The registration fee of \$100 will allow up to five teams from the same College or University to participate. Schools submitting more than five teams will have to pay an additional registration fee for additional participants (For example, Schools with 6-10 teams will need to pay \$200, 11-15 teams: \$300, 16-20 teams: \$400). Registration fees are NON-REFUNDABLE. Payment may be made by credit card or check payable to IARFC Financial Plan Competition.

FICTIONAL CASE STUDY: This will be provided in a narrative text file. The students must organize and enter the data. In the event the students feel that some facts or assumptions have been omitted, the student must make assumptions they consider appropriate, and must state all those assumptions at the outset of the plan.

The case narrative will be sent electronically on **September 20, 2017**.

PLAN SUBMISSION: Each plan may be the product of a single student or a team of **two** students. Students may **not** receive assistance from faculty members or outside financial consultants. It is the students' responsibility to submit plans to the IARFC for consideration; not the responsibility of the faculty representative.

BASIC PLAN SOFTWARE: Students may use whatever plan generation software is available as long as they provide data for each segment of the financial plan. If a team needs software to generate the plan, it can be obtained by contacting the IARFC.

PLAN FORMAT: The written plan **must be** in English and **must be** placed in a new, single three-ring binder with dividers separating the plan segments. The IARFC will provide the Table of Contents to use. Each divider must be labeled. All labels (such as brand and price sticker) should be removed from the binder before submission. Students should present the plan to the IARFC as if they were presenting to real-life clients with the highest level of professionalism possible.

Electronic submissions will NOT be accepted. Plans submitted that do not follow the format above will not be considered.

BASIS FOR EVALUATION:

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| Phase 1 | Initial review by IARFC Staff for basic entry criteria |
| Phase 2 | Review by financial professional to pick 6 semi-finalist |
| Phase 3 | Presentation (electronically) and judging to pick 3 finalists |
| Phase 4 | Presentation (in-person) and judging to pick 1 winner |



PLAN OWNERSHIP: Plans submitted become property of the IARFC and will not be returned. Students should prepare an additional copy for their reference in the event that they are selected as a Semi-Finalist or Finalist.

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: All interested schools must complete and return the Participation Agreement with the appropriate registration fee by **September 1, 2017** to compete in the 2018 Competition. Participation Agreements received after **September 1, 2017** will not be honored.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: Plans must be sent (postmarked or shipped) to the IARFC no later than **November 11, 2017**.

PUBLICITY: The IARFC will issue media releases to the financial services media announcing the award winners and the institutions where they are enrolled. Announcement will also be made in *the Register*, the bi-monthly magazine of the IARFC.

SCHOOL PARTICIPATION: Each college or university is required to designate **one** faculty member who will accept the responsibility for distribution of materials and communications to students and other faculty advisors.

INTERNATIONAL ENTRIES: Plans must be submitted in English. The IARFC will allow only one international team in the Semi-Finals. Should an International entry make it to the Finals, the International Chapter will be responsible for their round trip airfare to Charlotte, NC.

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