



2026 KEA Call for Undergraduate Papers

The Kentucky Economic Association is encouraging undergraduate research by supporting two to three sessions for undergraduate papers during the 2026 KEA conference (October 24, 2026). This year's conference will be held at Western Kentucky University. Please encourage your students to submit their papers and present. All students are encouraged to submit a full-length paper or a working paper with substantial progress. For working papers, we ask that students consult a faculty advisor prior to submission. Abstract paper submissions will not be accepted. Submissions will open on ***August 1, 2026*** and close on ***October 1, 2026, at 11:59pm EST***.

- Undergraduate papers must have been completed during the 2025-2026 academic year or a working paper for the 2026-2027 academic year.
- Faculty-student research is not eligible for the student paper competition, but submissions are welcome for presentations at the conference.
- Co-authored undergraduate papers are welcome.
- Paper submissions must qualify under one of the following:
 - Research about Kentucky and/or related regions,
 - Written by a Kentucky student,
 - Written by a student in a bordering state (Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, West Virginia, Virginia, Tennessee, or Missouri).
- If selected to present at the Conference, at least one author must be present, in-person at the event.
- Attached is the rubric that will be used to review submissions and determine which papers are accepted.
- Submissions must be in the form of a PDF or Word Doc.
- It is recommended that the body of the work to be submitted be between 15-25 pages.
- The best paper will receive a financial reward, sponsors to be announced.

Submissions can be made through the KEA website (KentuckyEconomicAssociation.org). To submit a paper, go to the “KEA Conference” link on the KEA website and select “Call for Undergraduate Papers” fill out the online form.

Any questions can be directed to Dr. Thomas Lambert thomas.lambert@louisville.edu.