



2020 Community Bank Case Study Competition

Overview & Academic FAQ

The Community Bank Case Study competition is an academic competition where undergraduate student teams partner with local community banks to conduct original case studies. For the 2020 competition, student teams will study how community banks have been meeting the Bank Secrecy Act and Anti-Money Laundering Act requirements, understand the challenges smaller banks encounter in their efforts to comply with BSA requirements, and identify potential regulatory reforms.

The competition is facilitated by the Conference of State Bank Supervisors (CSBS), the nationwide organization of banking regulators from all 50 states and the U.S. territories. The goal of the competition is to build a further understanding of the community banking business model and the role community banks play in local communities, to connect students with bank executives, and to highlight the ways community banks impact local economic development. The competition will provide an opportunity for students to sharpen their quantitative and qualitative analysis skills. Students on the first place team will:

- Receive a \$1,000 scholarship per student and faculty advisor;
- Be invited to present their research in front of regulators, academics and industry stakeholders at the CSBS-Federal Reserve Community Banking in the 21st Century Research and Policy Conference; and
- Be published in the CSBS Journal of Community Bank Case Studies (see 2019 [here](#)).

Second and third place teams will also receive scholarships, and have their works published in the journal. Works of student team finalists will be considered for publication.

For questions or comments contact khoyle@csbs.org or call 202-808-3556.

Competition Timeline

- **September 9th, 2019** – The Case Study topic is released to the public, and the application portal can be found here: www.csbs.org/bankcasestudy
- **November 22nd, 2019** – To participate, faculty advisors must submit a Statement of Interest on the CSBS Community Bank Case Study Website by this date. Faculty advisors are **not** expected to have a full student team or community bank partner when the Statement of Interest is submitted. Teams without a Statement of Interest by this date will not be considered.
- **November 22nd, 2019** – Student registration opens



- **February 3rd, 2020** – Deadline for students to register and for community bank partnerships to be secured.
- **April 20th, 2020** – Final papers and videos are due by 12:00 noon local time.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the focus of the 2020 Community Bank Case Study?

Under the direction of a school professor, the student team must conduct an original case study that addresses questions related to how community banks are meeting the requirements of the Bank Secrecy Act and Anti-Money Laundering Act.

Which students are eligible to participate?

- The student must be currently enrolled in a university or college during the full case study competition timeframe (September – April)
- The student's course work must be majority undergraduate courses
- The student must be able to provide proof of college or university registration

What are the student team requirements?

- Student teams must consist of between three to five students
- Teams must be advised by at least one school professor
- All members of the student team must be enrolled at the same university/college
- All research must be conducted during the Community Bank Case Study work period - August 2019 to April 2020

What is the responsibility of the student team faculty advisor?

- Professors sponsoring a student team are considered the team's faculty advisor or faculty sponsor
- The team faculty advisor must be a current professor at the same college/university as the sponsored team (s)
- Team faculty advisors are responsible for submitting the competition application
- Faculty advisors are responsible for helping to facilitate the partnership between the sponsored student team and a prospective local community bank
- Faculty advisors should serve as a guide and manage the student team throughout the competition process
- Faculty advisors may sponsor more than one student team. While there is no limit to how many student teams a faculty advisor may sponsor, professors are advised to consider the time commitment that will be necessary to manage several teams



What does it mean to “help facilitate the partnership between the sponsored student team and a prospective local community bank?”

This means that if the faculty advisor has a relationship with a local bank and feels comfortable reaching out to the bank, the advisor is encouraged to do so. If the faculty advisor does not have a relationship with a bank but still wishes to facilitate a bank partnership for the student team, the professor is again encouraged to do so.

CSBS staff, and in some cases, state banking Commissioners, are available to make the initial outreach to a potential bank upon the faculty advisor’s request. Faculty advisors should state this request in the competition application and reach out to Case Study Manager Katie Hoyle (khoyle@csbs.org) for more information.

How should I select student team members?

In some cases, professors may already have students in mind that they think would make great team members for the competition. For professors who do not, things to take into consideration may include: knowledge of banking industry/topics, commitment to long-term projects, ability to see projects through, video production experience, and strong writing skills. Students not majoring in a bank-related field may participate – all disciplines are welcome!

How do I register my team, and what is the deadline for locking in a full team and community bank partner?

Once you have a verbal commitment from the students, direct them to register themselves on the Case Study site once registration is opened on **November 22nd, 2019**. Once you have locked in your full team and your community bank partner (the deadline for securing both is **February 3rd, 2020**), you will be sent a legal disclaimer form that the bank must complete and return **before** your team starts the case study work.

Does the partner community bank have to be in the same state as the college/university?

The community bank partner does not have to be in the same community or state as the college/university.

Can I apply to enter the competition although I don’t have a student team identified?

Yes. Professors have from **September 9th to November 22nd, 2019** to submit their Statement of Interest. On **November 22nd, 2019**, student registration will open, and team members can register themselves on the CSBS Community Bank Case Study website.

Student team members have until **February 3rd, 2020** to register using the online registration system.

Learn more about the Community Bank Case Study Competition at <http://www.csbs.org/bankcasestudy/>



Teams that do not have at least three student team members identified in the application system by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on February 3rd, 2020 will be disqualified from the competition.

With questions, please contact khoyle@csbs.org.

Can I submit a Statement of Interest to enter the competition although I don't have a community bank identified?

Yes. Professors have from September 9th to November 22nd, 2019 to submit a Statement of Interest. The faculty sponsor then has until February 3rd, 2020 to submit the name and address of the community bank partner.

All applications with student teams that do not have a community bank partner secured and identified by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on February 3rd, 2020 will be disqualified from the competition. With further questions, please contact khoyle@csbs.org.

What if I commit three student teams by the February 3rd, 2020 deadline, but then decide I only want to move forward with one team?

In this case, please notify Katie Hoyle (khoyle@csbs.org or 202-808-3556) by email or phone that you wish to drop a team and CSBS will remove that team from being listed as a participant in our records.

What happens if the winning team includes only members who graduate in spring 2020? Do the students still get the scholarship?

Yes.

What happens if members of the winning team, or members of the winning team are not able to attend the CSBS-Federal Reserve Research and Policy Conference in 2020?

Attending the conference in person is optional, not a requirement.

What is your definition of a community bank?

The determination of whether the partner community bank is indeed a community bank will be left to the discretion of the faculty advisors. As a guide, faculty advisors are encouraged to refer to the FDIC's 2012 research definition that is available [here](#).

Can the students receive school/course credit for participating in the competition?

School or course credit for students participating in the competition is solely at the discretion of the professor, department, or school. The Community Bank Case Study Competition is an annual competition and CSBS is open to future collaborative efforts with schools to deliver school or course credit.

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Does the 25-page limit include work cited page?

The 25-page limit for the case study paper does not include the work cited page(s) or the cover page. However, it does include the executive summary and the body of work.

Do the charts and graphs have to be at the end of the paper like an appendix or can they be displayed throughout the paper?

No. The charts and graphs are not required to be at the end of the paper. Charts and graphs can be displayed throughout the paper, however the maximum limit of 10 pages dedicated to charts and graphs remains.

With whom/where will content be shared and does the bank have an opportunity for final review before presentation?

The bank may review the student team's paper before it is submitted, and is left to the discretion of the faculty advisor. The bank may also review the student team's video if agreed upon by the team and professor. All competition papers and videos will eventually be released publicly on the competition website after the judging process is complete and the top three teams are announced.

The bank(s) I've spoken with sees this as a sensitive issue and is unsure about participating and/or how much information to share out of fear of regulatory action. How can I address this question with the bank?

The case study competition project is for educational purposes only and not intended to serve a regulatory role.

Publicly Available Resources

FDIC Statistics on Depository Institutions (Aggregate Call Report Data): <https://www5.fdic.gov/SDI/>

- Includes: Pre-populated industry peer group data by asset size, charter and activities.

FDIC Community Bank Study: <https://www.fdic.gov/regulations/resources/cbi/study.html>

- Includes: Community banking aggregate data from 1987-2017, community banking merger and acquisition data.

FFIEC Uniform Bank Performance Reports (UBPR): <http://www.ffiec.gov/UBPR.htm>

- Includes: Summary ratios by peer group.

FFIEC Central Data Repository (Raw Call Report Data): <https://cdr.ffiec.gov/CDR>

- Includes: Call Report data (both current and historical) by institution.

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FFIEC Reporting Forms and Call Report Instructions: <https://www.ffiec.gov/forms041.htm>

- Includes: Instructions as to how to interpret 041, 031 & 051 Call Report fields.

Federal Reserve National Information Center (NIC): ffiec.gov/nicpubweb/nicweb/nichome.aspx

- Includes: Data on bank holding companies.

Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis Economic Research: <https://research.stlouisfed.org/>

- Includes: Relevant economic research regarding community banks.

FRED Economic Data (St. Louis FRB Data Tool): <https://research.stlouisfed.org/fred2/>

- Includes: Aggregate survey level industry data sets.

FRB/CSBS Research Conference Website: <https://www.communitybanking.org/>

- Includes: Relevant academic research regarding community banks.

Key Dates

- **September 9th, 2019** - Applications become available for academics to submit Statements of Interest at www.csbs.org/bankcasestudy.
- **September – November 2019** – Email notifications of acceptance sent to faculty.
- **November 22nd, 2019** - Competition closes for submission of Statements of Interest.
- **November 22nd, 2019** – Student registration opens.
- **September 2019 – January 2020** – Faculty sponsors should begin forming student teams and seeking community bank partnerships.
- **February 3rd, 2020** – Student team members and community bank partnerships must be finalized to continue in the competition.
- **September 2019 – April 2020** – The case study work period.
- **April 20th, 2020** - Student teams must submit final papers and videos by Monday, April 20th at 12 noon your local time.
- **April 22nd – May 4th, 2020** – Judges will meet to evaluate and score case studies.
- **May 21st, 2020** – 1st, 2nd & 3rd place teams announced at the 2020 CSBS State-Federal Supervisory Forum in Seattle, WA.
- **October 2020 (TBD)** – Winning team attends 2020 CSBS – Federal Reserve Community Banking in the 21st Century Research and Policy Conference.

For questions or comments, please contact Katie Hoyle at khoyle@csbs.org.

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