

ASC Region 7 – 2027 Student Competition Commercial Building Division

40th year Sponsored by Hensel Phelps!



Pre-Problem Information
October, 2026

I. Introduction

WELCOME to the **2027 ASC Regions 6 & 7 Student Competition!** All participants are to be commended for the personal time and financial commitment made in preparing for this competition. The construction industry has noted these sacrifices and the premier student population that is competing.

Congratulations to our top 2026 Student Teams from a field of **22 teams!**

- 1) [California State University Sacramento](#)
- 2) [California State University Chico](#)
- 3) [San Diego State University](#)

The ASC student competition is designed to challenge each team to different facets of the construction industry. Each team's estimating, scheduling, organization, leadership, productivity, and communication skills will be tested and enhanced while participating in this competition.

The competition will present each participant with construction industry exposure that may not otherwise be experienced until after working in the industry. It is Hensel Phelps' desire to present each team member with real life situations through this competition. Some of these "experiences" may seem uncomfortable and/or appear to contain no logic. Be aware: the real world is very often not kind, fair or logical! The construction industry will present situations where people are less than pleasant, and pressure is applied to the extreme. But it will also provide great feelings of accomplishment and team camaraderie. Some questions, both in real life and in this competition, may have multiple answers and some questions may have no correct answer. The superior level of the student competitors attending the competition should embrace these challenges and recognize the value of these lessons. The judges in the interview portion of this competition may seem to "put you through the wringer" with tough questions and references to deficiencies in your written proposal. Although it is human nature to "take it personal", please understand that these lessons are for the good of your development and excellence. It is not the intent of the judges to frustrate and alienate you, yet the spirit of competition places a duty on the judges to ask the hard questions that will allow team rankings to occur. At the end of the competition each team member should reflect on the knowledge and experience gained, and hopefully the judges can become mentors and friends to you.

As a driven team member, realize that all teams have come to the competition with the main goal of WINNING! However, with so many competitors, also realize that there can only be one winner announced. As an intelligent, driven and committed individual, recognize the vast knowledge, industry exposure, and experience gained in competing and finishing this problem. This is the real reason all teams and individuals are competing. Yes, it is true: every person competing is a winner regardless of the final overall placement. Make sure you, and your team, understand this; it does make a difference!

Determination of the Winner is based on a uniform grading scale for the written portion of the competition. The oral presentation is judged via a multi-member judge panel. Be sure to be creative, active and engaging in your virtual presentations to maximize scoring, just like the industry has to adapt to the current virtual interview environment to award a project. The combination of these two components, in the scoring ratios listed, determines the overall team placement. Overall team placements will not be posted, but feedback will be provided after the competition.

Congratulations for participating and Good Luck!

II. Supplemental Rules

The following rules apply to the Commercial Division and serve to supplement the ASC Competition Rules.

Rule No. 1 The equipment usage for each team is to be as outlined in the Competition Rules as published by the ASC. Use of the Internet is allowed during the competition. Any additional equipment required for a presentation is the responsibility of the team.

Rule No. 2 The problems that are used for the competition are drawn from actual construction projects. In the past, there have been situations where student team members have worked on, or have specific knowledge of, the project that is the subject of the problem. This can be perceived as giving the team an unfair advantage in developing a solution. If, upon receiving the problem, any student recognizes the project that is the subject of the problem statement, the student shall notify the problem sponsor to discuss the extent of the student's project or problem knowledge. Alternates may be considered should there be an identified conflict. The judges will have the final decision. Failure to notify the problem sponsor makes the team subject to disqualification.

Rule No. 3 While the judges will endeavor to administer the problem with all fairness and appreciation for the team's perspectives, the decisions of the judges shall be final when deciding conflicts and scoring.

Rule No. 4 A one-half (½) point deduction will be taken for each minute the proposal is turned in past the time it is due. Written proposals are due per the Competition Schedule below. Other deliverable items, if applicable, will be due as specified elsewhere herein.

Rule No. 5 Presentations will begin at **6:00 AM on Friday, February 5, 2027**. **Presentation materials for ALL TEAMS are to be turned into the Judges by 5:30 AM Friday morning.** No other presentation material will be allowed into the presentation that is not turned into the judges by this time - **NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE ALLOWED**. Teams will submit files electronically on the USB drives provided to each team.

Rule No. 6 No phone calls or emails may be made to the Owner, Construction Manager, Architect, Civil, or Structural Engineer, or any other design consultants listed on the Drawings. Similarly, no components of the problem may be sent to others outside the team for assistance in completing the problem. Any violations of the above are subject to point penalties or team disqualification, at the Judge's discretion.

Problem forms, documents and project information can not be uploaded to 3rd party software platforms without Hensel Phelps prior authorization.



Rule No. 7 Due to the sensitive nature of disclosing project information that the Owner and / or design professionals may not wish to be publicly distributed, Hensel Phelps reserves the right to require Confidentiality Agreements be signed by each team member prior to distribution of the Problem Statement. This may further require that all or some Contract Documents or other materials provided to the team, both electronically and hard copy, be returned to Hensel Phelps at the conclusion of the competition.

Rule No. 8 The premise of the proposal and oral interview is that you are presenting to the upper management of your own company.

- a) It is preferred that your team take the identity of Hensel Phelps. You are therefore asked to refrain from including extra peripheral information about your company such as safety plans, company profiles or other marketing materials.
- b) Our intent is to test you on your knowledge of construction concepts, means and methods, not your ability to make up or compile marketing materials and canned programs.
- c) Please limit your responses generally to the information requested, although enthusiasm, innovation and enhancement is strongly encouraged to maximize grading results.

Rule No. 9 The software and Artificial Intelligence usage for each team is to be as outlined in the Competition Rules as published by the ASC.

Any team observed violating these rules may be asked to withdraw from the competition or be assessed point penalties. These Rules are subject to change; and, the final version will be included in the Problem Statement distributed at the opening conference.

III. Skills Required

Each team may be expected to demonstrate proficiency and skills required in the construction industry including the following twenty-one categories:

- 1) Proposal Format and Organization
- 2) Scheduling
- 3) Site Utilization
- 4) Cost Estimating / Quantity Survey
- 5) Subcontractor Interface / Proposal Tabulation
- 6) Technical Writing
- 7) Oral Presentation
- 8) Construction Document (Plans and Specifications) Proficiency
- 9) Quality Control
- 10) Design Review / Management
- 11) Cost Control and Labor Management
- 12) Project Management and Supervision Skills
- 13) Risk Management
- 14) Coordination of Work
- 15) Personnel Management and Recruiting
- 16) Originality / Innovation / Critical Thinking
- 17) Entrepreneurial Spirit
- 18) Sustainable Building Practices
- 19) Reaction to Stressful Situations
- 20) Legal / Contractual Issues
- 21) Accessible Design

IV. Timetable

Official Competition Schedule will be reviewed at the 'Kick Off' meeting Thursday morning on **February 04, 2027**.

Early Deliverable | FRIDAY JAN 22, 2027 | Via Email

Team Biography Deliverable Due via email (reference PDF template)

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 04, 2027

Kick Off / Distribute USB Problem & Establish Presentation Order.....	6:00 AM
First Progress Meeting / RFI's Due.....	10:00 AM
Lunch Delivered to Rooms ***.....	12:00 PM
Trade Interviews (15 min / team).....	2:00 – 7:30 PM
Dinner Delivered to Rooms ***.....	7:00 PM
Proposal Materials Due.....	10:00 PM

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 05, 2027

Interview Material Due (ALL TEAMS)	5:30 AM
Interviews Start (22 teams)	6:00 AM
Project Debriefing (Tentative)	6:35 PM

FOOD NOTE:

Meals will be provided by Hensel Phelps. Due to the constraints of the Hotel, meals are to be provided by the Hotel Catering Service. Lunch will be provided with sandwich lunch boxes, and dinner will be pizza and salad. If members of your team have dietary restrictions, please plan to have them bring their own food. Teams are also welcome to bring your own in room food.

V. Scoring (TENTATIVE)

Written Portion	120 Points*
<u>Oral Presentation</u>	<u>80 Points</u>
Total	200 Points

*Additional Points for Addendum Questions (if issued, at sponsor's discretion).

VI. Early Deliverable:

In order to get acquainted with the team members and coaches prior to arriving in Sparks, and to recognize them when there, it is requested that a simple biography of each team member, alternate and coach be provided by **January 22, 2027**. Reference the sample “**placemat**” bio for formatting guidance.

Please email one PDF document that has all of the Bios included in it to the following representatives:

Andrew Cameron (Acameron@henselphelps.com)

Amanda Harwood (aharwood@henselphelps.com)

Email Subject Line: **ASC Region 7 Commercial – TEAM NAME - Bio**

Biographies shall contain a close-up photo of the member’s face and the photo shall be of sufficient size and quality that it can be “electronically detached” and used for an overall roster of participants that will be prepared for the judging staff. Include information on class standing, work background and email contact information. Other fun and interesting items can be included, but total life histories are not desired!

Please clearly indicate your team captain’s name and contact information.

Changes to this document after submission are acceptable so long as they comply with the rules of the ASC. Revised biographies reflecting these changes would be appreciated.

As the intent of this deliverable is to simply get acquainted with the team members, **no points shall be issued in the competition for content of this item**; however, the judges reserve the right to deduct points from the team’s score for failure to comply with this request in a timely and professional manner.

Hensel Phelps will similarly prepare a biography package of problem authors, judges and administrators such that team members can get acquainted with us. This biography package will be emailed to each team member prior to the competition at the email addresses they provide.

Looking forward to seeing you up in Sparks, NV!