

2025–2026 Competitive Events Guidelines

Computer Applications (Collegiate)



Computer Applications challenges members to demonstrate their proficiency in using various software tools to manage and communicate business information. Through a production test, members apply skills in word processing, spreadsheets, and presentation software to complete practical business tasks efficiently and accurately.

Event Overview

Division	Collegiate
Event Type	Individual
Event Category	Production
Event Elements	Production Test

Educational Alignments

Career Cluster Framework Connection	Management & Entrepreneurship
NACE Competency Alignment	Career & Self-Development, Communication, Critical Thinking, Professionalism, Technology

Knowledge Areas

- Spreadsheet Functions and Formulas
- Creating and Formatting with Word Processing
- Developing Slides & Presentations
- Integrating Spreadsheets and Word Processing
- Integrating Presentations and Spreadsheets

Production tests are based on the knowledge areas and competencies outlined for this event. Detailed competencies can be found in the study guide included in these guidelines.

State

This event will not be offered at the Colorado State Leadership Conference. Members can request to compete in this event at the National Leadership Conference. Colorado can send 4 entries per event; preference will be given based on date of submission for the Collegiate NLC Intent Form. More information will be shared in the SLC and NLC Call to Conferences.

National

Required Competition Items

Items Competitor Must Provide	Items FBLA Provides
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fully powered device for production test, including all needed programs installed for the production test• Printed Production Test Reference Guide• Conference-provided nametag• Photo identification• Attire that meets the FBLA Dress Code	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Production test tasks• Internet access for submission

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Important FBLA Documents

- Competitors should be familiar with the Competitive Events [Policy & Procedures Manual](#), [Honor Code](#), [Code of Conduct](#), and [Dress Code](#).

Eligibility Requirements

To participate in FBLA competitive events at the National Leadership Conference (NLC), the following criteria must be met:

- **Membership Deadline:** FBLA national membership dues must be paid to the specific division by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on March 1 of the current school year.
- **Conference Registration:** Members must be officially registered for the NLC and must pay the national conference registration fee to participate.
- **Official Hotel Requirement:** To be eligible to compete, competitors must stay within the official FBLA housing block.
- **State Entry Limits:** Each state may submit up to four entries per event.
- **Event Participation Limits:** Each member may participate in:
 - One individual or team event, and
 - One chapter event (e.g., *Community Service Project* or *Local Chapter Annual Business Report*).
- **Competitor Responsibility:** Only registered competitors are permitted to plan, research, prepare, and set up their presentations. Advisers and others may not assist.
- **Participation Requirement:** To be eligible for an award, each competitor must complete all components of the event at the National Leadership Conference.
- **Identification at Check-in:** Competitors must present valid photo identification (physical or digital) that matches the name on their conference name badge. Acceptable forms include a driver's license, passport, state-issued ID, or school ID.
- **Late Arrivals:** Competitors will be allowed to compete until such time that the results are finalized, or participation would impact the fairness and integrity of the event, as determined by Competitive Events staff. Five penalty points will be assessed for late arrivals in any competitive event.
- **Event Schedule Notes:**
 - Some events may begin before the Opening Session.
 - All schedules are posted in local time for the NLC host city.
 - Schedule changes are not permitted.

Event Administration

- **Production Test Time:** 2 hours
- This event consists of a production test that is proctored and completed on-site at the National Leadership Conference (NLC).
- Competitors will complete a set of tasks aligned to the event knowledge areas and competencies. These tasks will be shared on-site at the beginning of the production test time block.
- The Production Test Reference Guide, available on the Competitive Events section of the FBLA website (www.fbla.org), may be used during the test.

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Scoring

- **The rating sheet will be provided on-site along with the production test.**
- Normalized production scores (using standard deviation, if multiple sections are used) will determine the top winners.
- If there is a tie, the rating sheet will be used to break the tie. The competitor who earns the highest score earliest in the order of the rating sheet will be ranked higher.
- All judging decisions are final. Results announced at the National Leadership Conference are considered official and will not be changed after the conclusion of the National Leadership Conference.

Penalty Points

- Competitors may be disqualified if they violate the Code of Conduct or the Honor Code.
- Five points are deducted if competitors do not follow the Dress Code or are late to their assigned presentation time.

Recognition

- A maximum of 10 entries (individuals or teams) may be recognized per event.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

- FBLA complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by providing reasonable accommodations for competitors. Accommodation requests must be submitted through the conference registration system by the official registration deadline. All requests will be reviewed, and additional documentation may be required to determine eligibility and appropriate support.

Electronic Devices

- Unless approved as part of a documented accommodation, all cell phones, smartwatches, electronic devices, and headphones must be turned off and stored away before the competition begins. Visible devices during the event will be considered a violation of the FBLA Honor Code.

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Study Guide: Knowledge Areas & Competencies

A. Slide Deck Applications

1. Use software to create a slide deck with multiple types of slides incorporating effective use of text, graphics, fonts, animation, and transitions.
2. Design engaging slide presentations using features such as diagrams, customized visuals, animations, backgrounds, interactive elements (e.g., action buttons, hyperlinks), multimedia (e.g., audio and video), and speaker notes.
3. Insert and adjust visual aids—such as images, charts, icons, and infographics—within slide content using modern layout and formatting tools.
4. Create original visuals using digital drawing tools, clip art libraries, and imported graphics from design software or mobile apps.
5. Edit, crop, and export images in appropriate file formats (e.g., PNG, JPEG, SVG) for presentation use across platforms.
6. Design and format presentation slides with multimedia elements such as text, images, audio, and video.

B. Spreadsheet Applications

1. Create, edit, save, and print spreadsheets using functions (e.g., SUM, AVERAGE, MIN, MAX, COUNT, IF, AND, PMT, FV, VLOOKUP, XLOOKUP, TODAY, etc.), formulas, and data tools within spreadsheet software.
2. Organize and modify worksheet structure by inserting, deleting, moving, and copying rows, columns, and ranges.
3. Generate and customize charts and graphs with appropriate titles, legends, and formatting to visually represent spreadsheet data.
4. Rename, reorder, and link multiple worksheets within a workbook to create integrated, multi-sheet projects.
5. Enhance the visual design of spreadsheets by applying fonts, colors, cell styles, and alignment tools for improved readability and presentation.
6. Create and manipulate pivot tables to summarize, analyze, and present data trends using sorting, filtering, grouping, and calculated fields.

C. Word Processing Applications

1. Use the Production Test Reference Guide to create a variety of documents.
2. Use help features and reference materials to learn software and solve problems.
3. Create, save, and retrieve word processing files.
4. Demonstrate the use of character formatting features (bold, underline, italics, font styles and sizes, superscript, and subscript).
5. Demonstrate the use of paragraph formatting features (tabs, indentations, line spacing, and enumerated items).
6. Demonstrate the use of page formatting features (margins, justification, vertical placement, orientation, page breaks, headers, and footers).
7. Demonstrate document editing skills using spell/grammar check, thesaurus, search/replace, and other document properties.
8. Create documents using mail merge features.

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D. Application Integrations

1. Create integrated projects by combining content from word processing, spreadsheet, and slide deck application tools.
2. Collaborate using word processing, spreadsheet, and slide deck applications by inserting, reviewing, and responding to comments and tracked changes.
3. Embed charts or tables from a spreadsheet into a document or slide deck.
4. Link live spreadsheet data to word processing or slide deck applications.
5. Generate a report using spreadsheet data and summarize in a slide deck application.
6. Create a unified project across all three applications.

E. Formatting, Grammar, Punctuation, Spelling, and Proofreading

1. Apply consistent formatting and layout techniques to letters, reports, tables, spreadsheets, charts, and graphics.
2. Produce professional documents using correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, and style.
3. Use built-in editing tools (e.g., spelling and grammar check, editor suggestions, and comments) to review and revise content.
4. Apply rules for capitalization, punctuation, and number formatting while proofreading and editing documents for accuracy and clarity.
5. Export or save documents in appropriate formats (e.g., PDF, DOCX, CSV) for sharing, printing, or submission.

The Study Guide represents all knowledge areas that may be covered in the production test.