



**National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences - Chicago/Midwest Chapter**

**2024 CHICAGO/MIDWEST REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL  
STUDENT AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE**

***DEADLINE: Wednesday, February 21, 2024***

**CALL FOR ENTRIES AND RULES BOOKLET**

**THE THREE BASIC STEPS TO ENTERING:**

1. Sign on as a “Registered User” on [http://natasstudentawards.org/entry\\_login.php?c=11](http://natasstudentawards.org/entry_login.php?c=11) If you are a MMEA high school teacher, please use a pre-assigned login number and password (contact us at [rcowing@emmyonline.tv](mailto:rcowing@emmyonline.tv) if you don’t have this.)
2. Fill out and submit the online entry form for your entry to acquire the ***unique Entry ID Number*** for that entry. Be sure to include all eligible names of the entrants on the online forms. Only 5 student names can be listed as entrants for each entry. Pay for the entry at this time with a credit card or a arrange check payment. You'll receive an email confirmation of your entry, with the Entry ID Number on the form. **SEE PAGE 5-7 FOR THE FULL CATEGORY LIST.**
3. Upload your video. Uploading on Emmy® Express is as easy as uploading a video on YouTube! After you upload, you will be able to watch the uploaded video on Emmy® Express and approve it for submission

## **THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF TELEVISION ARTS & SCIENCES**

NATAS is a professional service organization dedicated to the advancement of the arts and sciences of television and related media and the promotion of creative leadership for artistic, educational and technical achievements within the television industry, best known for the coveted Emmy® Award.

### **PURPOSE**

To recognize outstanding student achievement in production by conferring awards of merit in the Chapter's designated awards region. The presentation of these awards is intended to be an incentive for the continued pursuit of excellence by those studying media and journalism and to focus public attention on outstanding cultural, educational, technological, entertainment, news and informational achievements by undergraduate college and/or high school students.

## **STANDARD RULES AND REGULATIONS**

### **ELIGIBILITY**

1. Projects conceived, produced and executed by students at a high school, university, college or technical/vocational school within the Chapter's designated awards region are eligible for student award consideration.
2. Returning students who previously worked as professionals are not eligible.
3. No professional services may have been employed in the production of the entry.
4. Faculty involvement can only be advisory.
5. Entrants must be enrolled as a full-time student during the eligibility period
6. Students may enter work that was produced as a class assignment, extra-curricular assignment or in conjunction with their academic experience.
7. Students who perform *professional* work may enter their work in the professional awards competition, provided they meet all eligibility requirements.
8. No entry may be submitted to more than one Chapter's awards.
9. The entry does not need to have been broadcast, cablecast or webcast to be eligible.
10. Entry videos must as they were originally submitted to their advisor. There may not be any edits to the originally completed video except for edits to bring the entry length within the specified category time limit. When editing for time, use only straight cuts with one second of black to denote where content has been removed.
11. There is no limit to the number of entries a school may submit in each category.
12. Pornographic, violent, defamatory or offensive material is not accepted. The interpretation of the Awards Committee is final and absolute.
13. Ineligible entries may be disqualified during any phase of the competition.

## **STUDENT PRODUCTIONS**

Students are not considered peer professionals and as such, their regional student productions are not eligible for Emmy® Award recognition. If material is produced as part of a class, for which school credit is received, they are considered a student. If they are paid or working on a project with other "professionals," and want to enter the Chapter's Emmy® Award competition, they cannot enter as a student, but instead must pay the appropriate entry fees. The student is then prohibited from entering subsequent student production categories with other classmates.

## **ENTRY SUBMISSIONS**

A teacher, professor or advisor must approve the entry even if the student handles the submission or upload process themselves. There is no limit to the number of entries a school may submit.

## **ORIGINAL MATERIAL**

At least two-thirds of an entry must consist of original material, unless previously produced material has been given some unique and creative treatment. Entrants must specifically identify and give credit to all non-original material included in the entry. This includes music use.

## **LANGUAGE(S)**

Entries in English will be judged by English-speaking professionals. Entries in Spanish will be judged by Spanish-speaking professionals. Entries in other languages may be entered. We recommend that entrants in languages other than English or Spanish submit an English-language translation of the narration track.

*(Chapter Note: Please let us know ahead of time if you plan to submit entries in another language besides English. We may opt to ask for subtitles be added.)*

## **DOUBLE DIPPING**

No single entry may be submitted in its entirety in more than one Programming category. The same student may not be listed on more than one entry for doing the same job using the same work. If a student was responsible for more than one role, they submit the video in the appropriate craft categories to be judged for that particular craft (ie writer, editor, etc.).

## **ENTRY ERRORS AND OMISSIONS**

The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences assumes no responsibility for the acts or omissions of those individuals or entities submitting entries pursuant to this notice. All submitting entities and/or individuals are advised to review submissions with respect to correct name credits and other information.

NATAS shall accept all submissions that are not in conflict with any of its rules and regulations.

## **INTENTIONAL FALSIFICATION**

The-faculty advisor warrants that they are the party most responsible for verifying that eligibility requirements have been met. The intentional falsification of production credits or entry credits may be the basis for disqualification.

## **FEES**

While a fee to cover administrative expenses may be charged, there may be no individual student entry fees. Membership is not a requirement for advisors or entrants.

## **JUDGING AND EVALUATION**

Programming Categories are judged on three criteria: content, creativity and execution on a 10-point scale (maximum 30 points); and Craft Categories are judged on two criteria: creativity and execution (maximum 20 points). Judging panels are to be made up of qualified professional judges. Judges have the option of including constructive comments or feedback, to be returned to the student's faculty advisor.

## **AWARDS**

A crystal pillar is awarded to the school for entries validated by a professor or advisor. Students responsible for the production will each receive a certificate. Pillars may be purchased for students listed on winning entries after the awards.

## **RESTRICTION ON THE USE OF EMMY® MARK**

Schools may refer to the fact that they are recipients of a NATAS Student Production Award but may not use the Emmy® name or replica of the Emmy® figure in any form of commercial advertising or promotion.

## **CHICAGO/MIDWEST CHAPTER RULES AND REGULATIONS**

### **COST AND PAYMENT**

Each entry requires an accompanying processing fee of \$25.00 payable via VISA, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express. **Fees are made online through the online entry process and are processed through the secure server authorize.net, and an automatic receipt will be sent by e-mail.**

The fee is NON-REFUNDABLE. Checks or money orders are also accepted (payable to NATAS Chicago). Schools with a large amount of entries may send one check to cover all the entries. Make checks payable to NATAS Chicago and send to: NATAS Chicago/Midwest Chapter, c/o Columbia College Chicago, Communication Dept., 33 E. Ida B. Wells Drive, Ste. 535, Chicago, IL 60605.

### **CHAPTER BOUNDARIES (DESIGNATED AWARDS AREA)**

The entered high school must be located within the following Designated Market Areas (DMAs): Illinois Markets: Chicago, Peoria-Bloomington and Rockford; Indiana Market: South Bend-Elkhart; Wisconsin Markets: Green Bay-Appleton, Madison, Milwaukee, and Wausau-Rhineland.

### **ELIGIBILITY PERIOD**

All entries must have been originally broadcast, cablecast or webcast within the Awards Eligibility Period from March 1, 2023 to February 28, 2024. Applicants must be currently enrolled as a full-time student as of the application deadline (February 21, 2024).

### **ENTRY DEADLINE**

Entries must be successfully uploaded to our online entry system by February 21, 2024. The Chicago/Midwest Chapter must receive all entry forms and processing fees no later than February 21, 2024 as well. **The earlier you upload, the easier it will be to allow time for adjustments and problems. Please make a genuine effort to start early to avoid getting caught in a pipeline jam.**

### **SUBMISSION LIMIT**

**The same entries may be entered in both the programming and craft categories** (for example, an entry may be eligible for Editor and Short Form - Fiction). However, the same material may not be entered in more than one Programming Category (Categories 1 to 14). Alternatively, the high school or after school program may endorse submissions produced by its enrolled students at public access facilities or community arts centers, thereby verifying the submission as the student's own. There is no limit to the number of entries a

school or program may submit in each category. **However, only 5 student names can be listed as entrants for each entry.**

## **JUDGING PROCESS**

Entries will be judged by blue ribbon panels composed of television industry professionals. Judges may not have a conflict of interest, which is described as having a direct involvement in the production of an entry or having a personal relationship with any of the production staff.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

NATAS Chicago/Midwest Chapter, c/o Columbia College Chicago, Communication Dept., 33 E. Ida B. Wells Drive, Ste. 535, Chicago, IL 60605. For further information, advice or clarification, contact Rebekah Cowing at [rcowing@emmyonline.tv](mailto:rcowing@emmyonline.tv) or at 312-369-8600 or 312-218-8058.

## **CATEGORIES**

### ***PROGRAMMING CATEGORIES***

*Note: The same material may not be entered in more than one programming category.*

#### **1. Newscast**

For outstanding achievement in a newscast, produced daily or less than daily, but broadcast, streamed or otherwise distributed as a “live” program. Post edits are not permitted except for the removal of breaks. Entry will be judged on overall content, presentation, enterprise, writing, format, teases, etc. **Time Limit: 30 minutes.**

#### **2. News Report – Serious News**

For outstanding achievement in a presentation of timely news, information and current events. Entries may contain spot news coverage, investigations and feature stories on any newsworthy subject. Coverage of controversial issues is welcome. Entries will be judged on the basis of editorial content and pictorial coverage, which demonstrates awareness of broadcast journalistic standards including accuracy and fairness. Judges will particularly look for well-organized material paying close attention to clearly written narration and appropriate sound bites. Preference will be given to individual pieces demonstrating reporting and field production. In-studio set-up or anchor link work will not be considered as an asset unless it materially contributes to the editorial content of the individual report. **Time Limit: 10 minutes.**

#### **3. News Report – Light News**

For outstanding achievement in a presentation of timely news, information and current events. Entries may contain spot news coverage, investigations and feature stories on any newsworthy subject. Coverage of controversial issues is welcome. Entries will be judged on the basis of editorial content and pictorial coverage, which demonstrates awareness of broadcast journalistic standards including accuracy and fairness. Judges will particularly look for well-organized material paying close attention to clearly written narration and appropriate sound bites. Preference will be given to individual pieces demonstrating reporting and field production. In-studio set-up or anchor link work will not be considered as an asset unless it materially contributes to the editorial content of the individual report. **Time Limit: 10 minutes**

#### **4. Arts/Entertainment/Cultural Affairs**

For outstanding achievement in a presentation of content devoted to cultural or artistic significance. Entry may be a single story or a multi-part series of stories on the same topic. **Time Limit: 10 minutes.**

#### **5. Music Video**

For outstanding achievement in replication, reinterpretation or original material in a music video. Judges will evaluate content, creativity and execution. **Time Limit: 5 minutes.**

## **6. Short Form - Fiction**

For outstanding achievement in a presentation of a short-form treatment of a single fictional subject. Dramatizations or student originated soap operas or plays are permitted. Content creativity and execution will be important elements in judging the entries. Judges will particularly look for well-organized material, paying close attention to clearly written narration and appropriate sound bites. **Time Limit: 10 minutes,**

## **7. Short Form - Non-Fiction**

For outstanding achievement in a presentation of a short-form treatment of a single non-fiction subject. Subject matter can include (but is not limited to) investigations, examinations of social issues, personal relationships, sports lifestyles, music, performing arts, entertainment, fashion and historical retrospectives. Content creativity and execution will be important elements in judging the entries. Judges will particularly look for well-organized material, paying close attention to clearly written narration and appropriate sound bites. **Time Limit: 10 minutes.**

## **8. Sports Story or Segment**

For outstanding achievement in a sports news, information or feature story. In-studio set-up or anchor link work will not be considered as an asset unless it materially contributes to the editorial content of the presentation. Judges will particularly look for well-organized material, paying close attention to clearly written narration and appropriate sound bites. **Time Limit: 10 minutes.**

## **9. Sports Program**

For outstanding achievement in a sports program or special. Entry may be live or edited and must have, as its basis, special coverage not to be taken from a newscast. Entries may include multi-camera and pre-produced segments. Entry may have no post-edits except for the removal of PSAs, interstitials or commercials. Entry will be judged on awareness of broadcast journalistic standards including accuracy and fairness. **Time Limit: 30 minutes.**

*Note: This category is for shows such as pre/post-game shows, sports interview/discussion programs, season recap shows, etc. If the original presentation ran more than 30 minutes, entrants may select up to three (3) segments/excerpts to bring the entry to the specified time limit. One (1) second of black should be included between segments/excerpts.*

## **10. Live Sporting Event/Game**

For outstanding achievement in the production of a live or recorded live sports event or game. A composite is required and may include segments or excerpts that provide examples of: Show Open, Graphics Package, Use of Replays, Inserted Pre-Produced Segments, Use of Statistical or Other Prepared Material, Highlights, Standard Coverage (e.g. Routine Innings or Downs) and any additional material at entrant's discretion. **Time limit: 30 minutes.** *Note: One (1) second of black should be included between segments/excerpts.*

## **11. Public Service Announcement (PSAs)**

For outstanding achievement in announcements that effectively focus interest in and marshal support for worthy community or area causes. **Spots may be 5-seconds to 2 minutes in length.**

## **12. Public Affairs/Community Service**

For outstanding achievement in a presentation of content with current social, civic or other issue-oriented subject matter. Entry may be a single story or a multi-part series of stories on the same topic. Advocacy of a point of view is encouraged. Content, creativity and execution will be important elements in judging the entries. Entry will be judged on awareness of broadcast journalistic standards including accuracy and fairness. **Time Limit: 10 minutes.**

### **13. Magazine Program**

For outstanding achievement in a program consisting of various stories of regional interest, usually on current events or entertainment in a format that often includes interviews and interspersed with links by presenters who appear in the reports. Could cover “pre-produced” or “recorded and edited” morning announcements. Designed to entertain and inform. Judges will look at the overall content, creativity and execution of the entire program as a complete product. **Time Limit: 30 minutes.**

### **14. Commercial**

For outstanding achievement in commercial production, advertising a product, business, service, school department or community or school event that is conceived, written, created and produced for a class/school project. **Spots may be 5-seconds to 5-minutes in length.**

### ***CRAFTS CATEGORIES***

**Note:** Only those who performed the specified craft should be listed on the entry.

**Note:** One (1) second of black should be inserted between elements of a composite entry.

### **15. Director**

For outstanding achievement in directing demonstrating the skills of one or more individuals. Entries may contain a single example of the craft, or a composite of material as originally prepared for class or extra-curricular assignment. **Time Limit: 15 minutes.**

### **16. Editor**

For outstanding achievement in editing demonstrating the skills of one or more individuals. Entries may contain a single example of the craft, or a composite of material as originally prepared for class or extra-curricular assignment. **Time Limit: 15 minutes.**

### **17. Photographer**

For outstanding achievement in photography demonstrating the skills of one or more individuals. Entries may contain a single example of the craft, or a composite of material as originally prepared for class or extra-curricular assignment. **Time Limit: 15 minutes.**

### **18. Talent – News or Sports**

For outstanding achievement in on-camera talent demonstrating the skills of one or more individuals in the areas of news anchoring, reporting, host/moderator, sports play-by-play, analyst, etc. Entries may contain a single example of the craft, or a composite of material as originally prepared for class or extra-curricular assignment. **Time Limit: 15 minutes.**

### **19. Writer**

For outstanding achievement in writing in all forms, including both fiction and non-fiction. This award is designed to encourage clarity of thought as well as creativity. Style and substance both count heavily in determining the winner. Scripts must be fair and accurate and must demonstrate logical organization of editorial content so that a viewer will easily understand the story that is being told. **Time Limit: 15 minutes.**