



***2025 Annual Meeting
February 19-21, 2025
Phoenix, Arizona***

Leaning into Higher Education's Unknown Future

The political, social, and international conflicts that upended campus life for many institutions during the 2023-2024 academic year have made it more necessary than ever for academic leaders to chart a positive path forward for our institutions.

For our 81st annual meeting, ACAD will focus on leaning into the future against the backdrop of historical moments that seem to generate increasing internal and external challenges. As leaders, we must be prepared to deal with a variety of issues. We must reflect on the events that emerged on campuses in response to national and international conflicts and how they threatened the educational communities and opportunities we seek to foster. We must also find a way to strike a balance between our commitment to the free exchange of ideas and protecting various groups on our campuses. While some of the challenges we have faced in 2024 have arisen from human conflict, the impact of technological developments on education and human interaction more broadly will continue to complicate the pedagogical and structural models that our institutional cultures have upheld over time. Even policy changes that are supposed to serve higher education better, such as the FAFSA overhaul, have led to additional challenges for institutions and students.

ACAD invites proposals that will explore specific aspects of our theme such as:

- How can we be prepared for a future in which our campus communities will increasingly experience externalized conflict among various campus constituents?
- Given that the impact of artificial intelligence on human learning and interaction will continue to evolve and spread, what efforts have your institutions implemented to create flexible response options?
- At many of our institutions, our commitment to fostering and supporting a diverse, equitable, and inclusive community has been challenged by external actors. What efforts have you found promising or successful to continue the work toward DEI goals?
- Many institutions have faced difficult decisions about how to provide students with a robust academic program and to support the work of faculty across the institution in times of significant financial challenges. What program evaluation methods are being used to ensure effective and efficient use of resources while still responding to challenges facing our institutions? How have you helped academic programs on your campuses to support disciplinary health?
- How can we as academic leaders support the work of our colleagues in advancement to stabilize financial resources?

- How can we respond to the increasing need for mental health resources for students, faculty, and staff?
- Despite the weightiness of challenges like those mentioned above, what are some programmatic successes tied to workplace culture, operational efficiencies, faculty development, or student support that might be replicable across various types of institutions?
- How can we more effectively use institutional data to tell inspiring stories that develop on all of our campuses?
- With an unknown future, how should leaders prepare to face their changing roles within their institutions and communities?

The 81st ACAD Annual Meeting is intended to build on the success of the format of our Deans' Institute and the previous three meetings. The first day of the meeting will be largely modeled on the Institute and will include opening and closing plenaries, two sets of roundtables in the morning and then concurrent sessions after lunch. The second day offers a deeper dive into topics of interest using two-hour concurrent workshops in the morning and afternoon, then a short set of 60-minute concurrent sessions on hot topics in higher education that may not have arisen at the time of program publication. The final day contains two sets of concurrent 75-minute sessions. ACAD invites interest in all three types of sessions: roundtable discussions (single facilitator), workshops, and general sessions (up to four presenters).

ACAD sessions are known for their emphasis on practice and the use of interactive methods of presentation. We urge all session proposers to consider using case studies, discussion of exemplars, workshops, and other approaches that actively engage participants and draw on the wisdom and experiences of the group. The most successful sessions are those that invite participants to share their insights and include meaningful time for activities such as dialogue, reflection, and sharing. We encourage proposers to work with their colleagues from other institutions. We invite proposals from a broad array of institutional perspectives. The ACAD Annual Meeting serves academic leaders at the dean and provost level as well as associate deans, associate provosts, and other academic leaders on two-year and four-year college campuses. Presentations should address the needs of those populations.

Proposals should include:

1. The title or topic of your session.
2. A brief narrative (up to 60 words, suitable for conference promotional materials) describing the focus of your presentation.
3. A longer statement (up to 500 words) describing the session content, format, and context for the session.
4. A brief explanation of how your session will be interactive (small group discussion, case study, etc.).
5. Please select which type of session you are interested in (select all that apply):
 - a. Roundtable Discussion: Day one of the conference will include two one-hour roundtable discussions (8-9 registrants per table). Facilitators are expected to participate in both discussions on the same topic. Registrants will rotate tables while facilitators remain fixed. Roundtables use only one presenter/facilitator per topic.
 - b. Workshop: Day two of the conference is designated for workshops which run two hours.

c. General Sessions: Each day of the conference will have general sessions. Sessions will run 60 or 75 minutes. There should be a maximum of four presenters for general sessions.

6. The names, titles, and institutional affiliations of the session presenters (maximum of three participants from any single institution). Clearly designate one session leader who will be the point of contact with ACAD and provide that person's email address, mailing address, and phone number.

7. Any audiovisual requests, such as projector and screen. Please explain why it is essential to your presentation.

Proposals are due by 5pm Eastern on Friday, August 23, 2024. Proposals are being accepted online at: <https://acad.org/acad-annual-meeting-proposal-submission-form/>

Please contact Laura Best with any questions about the process at best@acad.org or by phone at 202-281-5115.

Please visit www.acad.org for more information about ACAD.

ACAD
Annual Meeting Program Committee