

ACM 2023-2024 Student Chapter Excellence Awards Application

For Application Guidelines, see <https://www.acm.org/chapters/student-chapter-excellence-awards>

Award Category: Outstanding Website

Chapter Name: *

UCLA ACM Student Chapter (90844) ▼

City: *

Los Angeles

State/Province:

California

Country: *

United States of America ▼

Outstanding Website: Chapter Contact Information

Please provide all required information

URL for your Chapter homepage (for example, <https://www.acm.org>): *

Please ensure your chapter logo abides by ACM's Chapter Logo Policy (<https://www.acm.org/chapters/chapter-policies>).

<https://uclaacm.com/>

Facebook:

Who is submitting this application? *

Enter Submitter's name

Sujay Jain

Submitter's Email: *

Enter Submitter's email

jainsujay@g.ucla.edu

Faculty Sponsor Name: *

David A Smallberg

Faculty Sponsor Email: *

das@cs.ucla.edu

Outstanding Website: Chapter Achievements

Provide brief descriptions as requested, and stay within the character limit for each

Please provide a brief description of your chapter and school (1500 character maximum) *

The University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) is an R1 university hosting over 31,000 undergraduate students, around 2500 of whom study computing or related disciplines.

The UCLA ACM Student Chapter is the largest CS student organization at UCLA and in Southern California. This year, it comprises 220 officers and 3,500 unique event attendees/general members. We are dedicated to building an inclusive community for those passionate about computer science, regardless of experience level, and we advocate for the student body within the UCLA CS Department.

Our chapter comprises 8 committees, two initiatives, and a board of directors, engaging in a wide range of activities:

- AI: Offers deep learning workshops and CV and NLP projects.
- Hack: Provides web and app development instruction for all skill levels.
- TeachLA: Delivers CS courses to K-12 Title 1 schools in LA.
- Cyber: Conducts secure systems workshops and competes in national CTF contests.
- ICPC: Prepares students for interviews, algorithmic thinking, and competitive programming.
- Design: Creates graphics and holds UI/UX workshops.
- Studio: Teaches video game development.
- W: Promotes diversity and inclusion in tech.
- Cloud: Runs projects and workshops on cloud computing and distributed systems.
- Impact: Introduces CS careers in non-profit and public sectors
- Board: Organizes major events like career and research fairs and town halls.

Hosting 700 events annually, our goal is to foster learning and growth within the CS community.

Outstanding Chapter Website Essay Guidelines (4000 character maximum) *

Tell us about the design and content of your website and any noteworthy features. Also, tell us how you created it and what you do to keep it up to date. Don't forget to provide the URL so the judges can check it out. Please be sure to use your chapter's official name - do not refer to your chapter as 'ACM,' 'ACM-W' or 'WICS.' Please note, links to essays will not be accepted and will disqualify your chapter.

The UCLA ACM Student Chapter's website, uclaacm.com, serves as a vital online gateway to our dynamic community. Developed with Next.js and React, our website boasts a unique design system crafted by our Design committee (design.uclaacm.com/). We're proud to deploy our site on Netlify and utilize ESLint and Stylelint to maintain our JavaScript and CSS, respectively.

Since its inception in mid-2020, our website has undergone continuous enhancements, thanks to the collective effort of over 50 dev officers. Over the past year, we have made significant updates through 60 commits.

A major update includes the launch of a new team page (uclaacm.com/officers), showcasing our extensive officer community. This page dynamically displays officer profiles, pulling images and text directly from our internal directory, acknowledging their contributions, and serving as a centralized reference point.

Further improvements aim to simplify our website's typography. Our developers are transitioning to a custom font designed by our design committee, westwoodsans.com, to adhere to the WCAG 2.1 AA standards for text spacing. Additionally, Lighthouse audits consistently prove that our website follows best practices for accessibility (100/100).

In prioritizing user privacy, we opted to use privacy-centric and self-hosted Goat Counter for web analytics instead of the industry standard Google Analytics. This tool has revealed that our site attracted nearly 10,000 unique visitors last year. Insights from Goat Counter also influenced our decision to optimize the website for tablet users, who constitute 24% of our audience.

Our commitment to open-source principles is evident as we welcome global contributions to our website, hosted on GitHub. The launch of opensource.uclaacm.com, our open-source portal, extends this ethos by aggregating UCLA's open-source projects. It aids students in finding projects to contribute to and introduces newcomers to open-source collaboration. We've also developed dev-pathways.netlify.app, a web application that aggregates over 550 recorded workshops, offering customized learning paths in computing. This initiative has significantly boosted our YouTube channel resulting in 1500 subscribers and over 66,000 views, demonstrating the platform's success.

Another innovation is our new membership portal, designed from scratch to enhance event participation and networking among UCLA students. The portal, powered by ExpressJS, Postgres, GoogleAuth, Docker, and Jest, facilitates event check-ins, prize distribution, and social connections. It highlights active members on a leaderboard and streamlines RSVP and attendance tracking by generating a list of attendees for each event.

Our website also serves as a showcase for our committees, featuring introductions, social media links, past events, and more, to encapsulate the essence of the UCLA ACM Student Chapter. A custom-built React calendar on our events page displays monthly events, enriching the user experience with detailed descriptions and resources. The About page and other dedicated sections highlight our organization's

structure, sponsor recognition, and key initiatives, like our impact page (uclaacm.com/impact).

For larger committees seeking their online presence without the hassle of development and maintenance, our development team created an in-house content management system (github.com/uclaacm/committee-website-template-cms/). This system leverages data from various sources to automatically generate and populate committee-specific websites, such as board.uclaacm.com and w.uclaacm.com. Developed with Next.js, React, and TypeScript, this CMS template embodies our proactive approach to supporting our community's digital needs.

In summary, through thoughtful enhancements and major updates, the UCLA ACM Student Chapter's website not only stands as a testament to our vibrant community but also showcases our commitment to innovation, privacy, and accessibility.

This form was created inside of Association for Computing Machinery.

Google Forms