



2025 InventOR - Judging Rubric & Criteria

InventOR Context & Deliverables:

The [PSU Center for Entrepreneurship](#) (CE) stewards [InventOR](#), Oregon's only statewide collegiate invention competition. Students secure a spot at **InventOR Bootcamp** by first winning a **preliminary competition** at their college or university. This invitation-only, three-day intensive and immersive design sprint helps them refine their innovation for a chance to compete at the **InventOR Finals**. Teams that progress further in the competition receive a **\$2,000 development grant** to build or enhance their prototype within **60 days**.

During the program, teams that advance will receive:

- **Experiential education in entrepreneurship** at Bootcamp
- **1:1 guidance** from a dedicated InventOR advisor
- **1:1 mentorship** from an industry expert
- **Pitch coaching** to refine their storytelling and presentation skills
- **\$2,000 prototyping grant** to develop their idea
- Access to CE **tools, resources, and networking opportunities**
- **Fully covered accommodations, meals, and reimbursement for travel** to Bootcamp and Finals
- **A chance to compete for \$30,000 in cash and prizes** at the InventOR Finals (Annual Pitch Competition & Prototype Exhibition)

At the **InventOR Finals**, teams must:

- Create a compelling **slide deck** to showcase their idea and progress
- Deliver a **5-minute pitch on stage**
- Field questions from a panel of judges during a **3-hour prototype exhibition**
- Present a **physical representation of their prototype** at the exhibition—while it is not required to be fully functional, it must be representative of their concept. Teams must be able to explain their design decisions, development progress, and future direction.

Students compete for **\$30,000 in cash prizes** at this annual event, which highlights the imagination and talent of the next generation of Oregon's entrepreneurs.

Judging Rubric

InventOR finalist teams will be evaluated by an independent panel of judges. Each team will deliver a 5-minute pitch to both the judges and a public audience, followed by a 3-hour Prototype Exhibition where teams will answer questions as judges visit each booth. This event provides students with the opportunity to showcase their ideas, allows judges to assess their work in detail, and offers the public a chance to engage with and support the 2025 InventOR cohort of student innovators.

Judging Criteria

[InventOR](#) is, first and foremost, an invention competition dedicated to supporting student innovators statewide in the early stages of their entrepreneurial journeys. Therefore, we believe that **progress**—driven by design thinking, rapid prototyping, and storytelling—is just as important as their **MVP** (prototype) and their concept's **potential impact**—how it generates value for both communities and the marketplace.

When evaluating finalist teams, judges should **equally consider the physical prototype, the team's progress**—how they've applied human-centered design, responded to customer feedback, and iterated on their idea—as well as the **potential impact** of their solution. These elements should be evident in both their **5-minute pitch** and **prototype exhibition**.

Accordingly, our scoring is weighted based on the following criteria:

- **Prototype (50% of overall score)**
 - Scoring should consider the current state or phase of the prototype.
 - Is the prototype/ solution innovative?
 - Is the design concept skillfully illustrated and/or demonstrated?
 - Is the prototype a functional representation of the idea?
 - This score is determined from **both** the pitch and the exhibition.
- **Pitch (20% of overall score)**
 - Scoring should consider the team's ability to clearly present the problem, solution, market opportunity, potential impact, and their progress during the competition.
 - Clear & Concise Communication
 - Presentation Style/ Stage Presence
 - Visuals & Information Design (Slides/ Images/ Props)
 - Telling a Compelling Story
- **Progress (20% of overall score)**
 - Scoring should consider the progress the team has made since beginning the competition.
 - Did the team clearly explain where their project began, the design decisions they made based on customer or user insights, and how they plan to evolve the project moving forward?
 - Did the team accomplish their stated goals and milestones, effectively utilizing the \$2,000 grant to develop their prototype?
 - Is it clear how the prototype reflects customer/user needs and feedback?
- **Impact (10% of overall score)**
 - Scoring should assess the potential of the team's business model to create a significant, scalable positive impact on the environment and/or society.
 - **Market Opportunity** - *size and potential of the target market*
 - **Sustainable Impact** - *long-term social, environmental, or economic value created*
 - **Strategy to Connect to & Serve Customers/Community** - *effectiveness of the approach to reach and serve the target audience*

InventOR Awards & Prizes

- **1st Place** - \$10,000
- **2nd Place** - \$7,500
- **3rd Place** - \$5,000
- **4th Place** - \$3000
- **Outstanding Community College** - \$2000
- **Visionary Award** - \$1500
- **Peoples' Choice** - \$1000

Outstanding Community College

Awarded to the community college who receives high marks but does not place in the top 4 positions.

Visionary Award

Awarded to the Finalist Team who receives high marks but does not place in the top 4 positions or receive the

Outstanding Community College award.

People's Choice

Awarded to the Finalist Team who receives the most votes from the attending audience and their fellow InventOR Finalist Peers.

****With the exception of the People's Choice award, which is chosen by the InventOR Finalist Cohort, Finalist Teams will be limited to receiving only one of the prizes listed above.***

Judging Instructions

Please use this **Judging Rubric and Criteria** as a guide when evaluating Finalist Teams during the competition. Each judge will be provided an iPad with a **digital scoring card** to record evaluations, and scores will be tabulated to determine prize winners based on the overall weighted results. Judges will also be supplied with feedback forms to provide any additional advice/ comments to teams.

To ensure clarity on the judging process, expectations, and event logistics, judges will be invited to a **virtual Orientation (via Zoom June 17th @ 3pm)** before the event. This session will cover what to expect on competition day, how evaluations and votes will be recorded, and provide an opportunity to ask questions. Any additional instructions will also be provided during the **Judges' Briefing on June 27th at 9am** at the [2025 InventOR Finals at the University of Portland](#).

IMPORTANT NOTE: On the day of the event, judges will calculate their final scores for each team based on a combination of the pitch presentation and the prototype exhibition. During the exhibition, all judges are **required to visit every team's table** to ask questions and engage more deeply with the project and the team's thinking process. Judges may adjust their scores on the iPad scoring cards at any time before submitting final results. iPads and comment cards will be collected **promptly at 5:00 PM** to ensure we have enough time to certify the winners before the awards ceremony.