



Forensic Program Mission

Through the practice of competitive speaking, the Minnesota State University, Mankato Forensic Program strives to develop in all participants a sense of respect for self, team and community.

Forensic Program Accomplishments

The MSU-Mankato Forensic Program is well known for its regional excellence and national reputation. Since the program's inception in 1931, there have been over 25 national final placements, and over 65 elimination round appearances at either the American Forensic Association National Individual Events Tournament or the National Forensic Association National Championship Tournament. Most recently, Bradford Wakefield (Sioux Falls, SD) placed 3rd in After Dinner Speaking at the 2012 National Forensic Association National Championship Tournament and Skylar Carlson (Tracy, MN) was a semi-finalist in Persuasive Speaking at the American Forensic Association National Championship Tournament. Further, MNSU students have been in elimination rounds at the Interstate Oratory Association National Tournament 11 times. In addition to the program's consistent competitive success, we are also proud of our role as leaders in the area of forensic education. Faculty members associated with the program have published over 25 articles in national journals exploring issues of forensic practice and pedagogy. Our reputation earned us a partnership with the National Forensic League to provide online professional development, continuing education, and graduate education in forensics.

Tournaments and Travel

The team travels to approximately 10 tournaments each semester. Some students choose to attend all of these tournaments, whereas others may choose to attend only a few. The team travels locally, regionally and nationally. The program is funded through student activity fees. As a result, the team covers all costs for transportation, hotel, entry expenses and most meals.

Coaching Staff

The MSU-Mankato Forensic Team is coached by two full-time tenured faculty members as well as additional graduate assistant coaches. Current Coaches are Professors Dr. Leah White and Jim Dimock as well as Graduate Students Chris Outzen (University of Northern Iowa), Justin Helmley (Seaton Hall University), Karyn Stoutenburg (Northern Illinois University), Elizabeth Stoltz (Southwest Minnesota State University) and Lucas Youngvorst (Gustavus Adolphus College). Students receive an abundance of one-on-one coaching time.

Scholarships

At least six talent grants in the amount of \$550.00 per semester are available to incoming freshmen who are committed to participation on the team. Additionally, returning team members are eligible for the Larry Schnoor Scholarship which is awarded to at least one student each year. We begin reviewing applications for the Talent Grants on March 1st. Review continues until all grants have been awarded. Contact the Director of Forensics for more information concerning available scholarships or go to the following address for an application: <http://www.mnsu.edu/cmst/speechteam/>

Contact Information

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