



American Culinary Federation Chef Educator of the Year Application Updated October 30, 2025

American Culinary Federation, Inc. • Attention: Administration • 6816 Southpoint Pkwy, Ste 400 • Jacksonville, FL 32216 • (800) 624-9458 • www.acfchefs.org

Application Deadline: December 31, 2025

National Competition: June 28-July 2, 2026; Grand Rapids, MI

Overview:

The ACF Chef Educator of the Year Award pays tribute to an active culinary educator whose knowledge, skills, expertise, guidance, and direction have enhanced the image of the professional chef and who, by example, has given leadership, guidance and direction to students seeking a career in the culinary profession. This person demonstrates the ability to help students define and develop their careers by using their skills and abilities to provide a strong foundation for their future success.

Application Fee:

- \$150 for ACF Members (non-refundable)
- \$400 Non-Members - (which includes 1-year of ACF National Membership, non-refundable)

Eligibility:

Candidates should demonstrate the ability to help students define and develop their careers by using their skills and abilities to provide a strong foundation for their future success.

- Be an ACF member in good standing for at least five (5) years.
- Hold a current ACF certification of CCE, CSCE, CEC, CEPC, CMC, CMPC or PCEC.
- Be an active culinary instructor, culinary chairperson, or a culinary dean in charge of curriculum development in a culinary program for the year in which the nomination is made.
- Have five (5) or more years of full-time teaching in a secondary or post-secondary culinary program.
- Have at a minimum a two (2) year degree in culinary arts or hospitality management, or a bachelor's degree or higher in any field.
- Not have applied for any other regional or national award from ACF in the year in which the nomination is made.

Please submit all required materials listed below:

- A completed application
- A current professional resume and biography of the candidate.
- List of professional education development activities for the past three years.
- Letter of recommendation from a school administrator.
- A high resolution, digital, color photograph of candidate in a white chef coat (minimum 300 dpi, .tiff or .jpeg format, minimum 1200x1600 pixels)
- An original written lesson plan (outlined below)



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Original Written Lesson Plan that includes:

- Lesson title.
- Measurable Student Learning Outcomes
 - Outcome list should be phrased “At the completion of the lesson, students are expected to...”
 - Each outcome should be measurable and use Bloom’s Taxonomy verbs
- Lesson plan of action detailed plans for lecture, instructor demonstration, and student demonstration of lesson components. Include key terms with definitions, recipes and lab practical and/or student worksheets.
- Written Assessment – A proposed written assessment to gauge understanding of lesson
- Demonstration-Based Assessment – A proposed outline and grading rubric for student practical demonstration of covered lesson components

Selection Process:

- Up to four national finalists will be selected by the American Culinary Federation’s Chef Educator of the Year Award committee.
- National finalists will perform a live educational presentation at the ACF National Convention. National winner will be decided based on the combined judges and student evaluation scores.

Winner Notification:

To ensure confidentiality of the award, winners will not be notified of their standing until the award presentation.



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Chef Educator of the Year Application

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

ACF Member Number: _____ Certifications: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

Chapter Name: _____ Chapter ID: _____

Joined ACF in: _____ Dues paid through: _____

Employment:

Name of School: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Title: _____

Employment Dates: _____

Education:

Name of School: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Degree: _____

Please reach out to competitions@acfchefs.org to arrange payment. Credit cards and checks accepted.



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I hereby certify that the information I have provided to The American Culinary Federation is correct. Furthermore, I grant permission to the ACF and its subsidiaries to use the information in this nomination form in print and electronically for promotional purposes, which may include video and/or photography. I understand that I will not be compensated and that I may not be notified for each use. All decisions that are made by the ACF National President are final and not subject to appeal.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____