



American Culinary Federation Chef Educator of the Year Application 2027 Regional Qualifier Application Updated August 12, 2025

Application Deadline: December 31, 2026

Regional Qualifier Competitions:

- Western Region
February 26-27
Orange Coast College
2701 Fairview Rd
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
- Northeast Region
March 12-13
Columbus State Community
550 E Spring St
Columbus, OH 43215
- Central Region
March 19-20
Johnson County Community College
12345 College Blvd
Overland Park, KS 66210
- Southeast Region
April 2-3
Virginia Western Community College
3098 Colonial Ave SW, Weber Hall, Room 305
Roanoke, VA 24015

ACF National Convention: Orlando, FL – July 12-15, 2027

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: \$125 (due with application, non-refundable)

NOTE: All qualifiers and national competitors must be ACF members

Email your completed application to competitions@acfchefs.org



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Eligibility:

- Candidate 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.
- Have not applied for any other qualifier or national award within ACF.

NOTE: Past national competitors may reapply at any time. Past National winners cannot reapply.

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)

Winner Notification:

- The regional winners will be announced at their respective qualifiers and will have ten (10) days to accept the invitation to compete at the ACF National Competitions. If any of the top four (4) decline the invitation, the next highest-scoring competitor will be offered an invitation to advance.

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Attendance and Critique Requirements:

- Competitors are required to attend the judges and competitors meeting at both the ACF Regional Qualifier and ACF National Competitions in order to take part in the competition. This meeting usually takes place the day before the competitions begin. This meeting is vital because it is where any last-minute changes or kitchen issues are addressed. It is also where competitors pick their starting time and identify their corresponding stations within the kitchen.
- All the competitors in the qualifier competitions are required to attend the critiques with the judges to be eligible to advance to the ACF National Competition. This is an opportunity for the competitors to receive feedback to help improve and become more competitive should they advance to the national level.
- All national competitors will be required to attend the President's Gala to take part in the awards ceremony.
- If a competitor is unable to attend any of the required meetings or events, they must notify the Culinary Competition Chair as soon as possible. The Culinary Competition Chair will review the circumstances on a case-by-case basis and decide accordingly on how to proceed. All decisions in these matters are final.

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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: _____

Payment:

Card #: _____ CVC: _____ Exp: _____

Name on Card: _____

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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: _____

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