

## 2026 ACS Undergraduate Award for Excellence in Chemical Safety and Ethics

### Call for Nominations

The American Chemical Society (ACS) Committee on Ethics (ETHX) and the ACS Division of Chemical Health and Safety (DCHAS) announce a call for nominations for the 2026 ACS Undergraduate Award for Excellence in Chemical Safety and Ethics.

This award recognizes senior undergraduates who have actively demonstrated the intersectionality between chemical safety and ethical behavior. Chemical safety is not merely a matter of rule compliance but one of culture—a matter of doing the right thing with respect to oneself and one's peers. Institutions worldwide are each invited to nominate one outstanding graduating senior in the chemical sciences (chemistry, biochemistry, chemical engineering, chemical technology, or similar) who has actively demonstrated the connection between chemical safety and ethics through behavior and schoolwork.

The student nominee will receive the following:

1. A letter of recognition from the Chairs of DCHAS and ETHX
2. An official award certificate
3. One year's membership in the ACS Division of Chemical Health & Safety (DCHAS) (*ACS membership is not required to be a member of the CHAS Division*)
4. Recognition on the DCHAS and ETHX websites

**Deadline for submissions:** June 1, 2026

**Link to nomination form:** [ACS Undergraduate Award for Excellence in Chemical Safety and Ethics – Fill out form](#)

Questions about the award can be sent to LaToya Rembert-Lang at [ETHX@acs.org](mailto:ETHX@acs.org).

#### **Award criteria:**

A statement of no more than 500 words describing how the nominee meets the award criteria is required. Nominations should come from a faculty or staff member at the institution who has knowledge of the nominee's activities. Self-nominations are not accepted. Nominators should provide a description of how the nominee's work aligns with the following criteria (not all criteria need be met):

1. Demonstrated Ethical Decision-Making in Laboratory Settings

The nominee shows consistent ethical judgment in laboratory work, including:

- Proactive identification and communication of safety risks
- Integrity in reporting data, observations, and incidents
- Adherence to both the letter and the spirit of safety protocols

## 2. Leadership in Promoting a Culture of Safety

Evidence that the nominee has influenced peers or the wider department by:

- Modeling safe laboratory behavior
- Encouraging open dialogue about safety concerns
- Supporting or leading safety committees, student groups, or initiatives

## 3. Integration of Safety and Ethics in Coursework or Research

The nominee demonstrates thoughtful application of safety and ethical principles within academic work, such as:

- Course assignments or projects addressing ethical dimensions of chemical safety
- Research that incorporates rigorous risk assessment and mitigation strategies
- Thoughtful reflection on ethical responsibilities in scientific practice

## 4. Contribution to Safety Training or Educational Activities

Examples may include:

- Developing or improving safety training materials
- Mentoring peers in safe laboratory operations
- Assisting faculty or staff with safety audits or improvements

## 5. Positive Impact on the Laboratory Community

The nominee's actions have resulted in tangible improvements to their institution's safety culture, such as:

- Enhanced compliance and awareness among peers
- Improved laboratory protocols or practices
- Increased engagement with safety resources or programs

## 6. Personal Commitment to Ethical Scientific Conduct

The nominee demonstrates an internalized commitment to ethical and safe behavior as an essential part of professional identity, reflected in:

- Personal statements or reflections
- Faculty or supervisor testimonials
- Consistent, long-term engagement with safety issues