



2025 IHSA JOURNALISM STATE FINALS STATE FINAL QUALIFIER INFO



WHEN

Friday, April 25, 2025

WHERE

Heartland Community College (1500 W Raab Rd, Normal, IL 61761)

Campus Map: <https://www.heartland.edu/documents/about/hcccampusmap.pdf>

* Please note that there is some construction on campus. Certain entrances on some buildings may be closed or some parking lots may have limited capacity.

HOTELS

The IHSA has no hotel blocks for schools arriving Thursday night. Choose any available hotel property. CVB Hotel List: <https://www.visitbn.org/visit/listings/hotels/>

COMPETITION FORMAT

In-person, no virtual option.

QUALIFIERS/WITHDRAWALS/SUBS

Please review the following list of qualifiers and let me know if you see any issues with your roster (missing people, misspellings, etc.). If your qualifier cannot compete, please let me know so we can invite the 4th place Sectional finisher. For preparation purposes, we will cutoff new invites for any withdrawals on Tuesday, April 22 at Noon. See 2025 state qualifiers on attached document.

PARKING

Park in Lot O and P behind Building 13/ACEC if possible. If filled, park in lots K-L-M on the north end of campus. See lots in the campus map above.

ARRIVAL/REGISTRATION/OPENING SESSION

After parking, you will enter Building 13, which is home to the Auditorium. There will be IHSA registration tables in the lobby area outside the Auditorium entrance. Advisors should check-in there, where they will be asked to confirm attendees, receive additional info for the day, and receive proctor info (if applicable).

If you enter Building 13 from the west or north side, you will enter on the floor with the Auditorium. If you enter from the east side, you will need to go up a flight of stairs to get the registration tables and auditorium.

REGISTRATION | BLOCK B PARTICIPANTS ONLY

If you don't have any students competing until Block B, you do not need to be there for the opening session. Please alert me if you plan to do that and I will have your registration packet left outside the judges room, where you can retrieve it upon arrival.

REGISTRATION FEES

Sectional and State fees will be charged to schools after the state finals. Please do not bring any checks or cash to the state finals.



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TECH NEEDS

-I need to know computer/tech needs for qualifiers in Newspaper Design, Yearbook Page Design & Infographics. Please respond via the Google Doc below if they are...

A) Providing own technology

B) Need a computer with InDesign

C) Need a computer with internet, but no software like InDesign

Please review and indicate here:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1JQ05rUh7zPs1PZuQxh_MH6iKUj0-v03keA22PzxTwyo/edit#gid=0

-Radio News participants must provide all their own equipment and editing software

-TV News participants must provide all their own equipment and editing software

WORK SUBMISSION

TV News will submit via YouTube links like at Sectionals and they will have info in their packet about which building to upload in, as Heartland is going to provide a greater upload speed in that building to help accommodate our TV News groups. We are once again going submit work online via www.ihsa.org/Journalism-State-Series. Info on that page will go live closer to the competition. Some events will be a mixture of digital and hand drawn work, for example, in Advertising those who compete electronically will submit via the links and those who draw by hand will submit to their proctor. Speaking of...

PROCTORS

A reminder that since 2019, advisers serve as the proctors for each event. Being a proctor isn't a real heavy lift. Essentially you will walk the students in the event you are proctoring over to their competing classroom, let me know if there are any IT issues, and then give everyone an official start and end time. If any issues arise, you can problem solve on the fly or alert me to help figure out. The proctor collects the work (if applicable for your event per the above) and then delivers it to the judges room at the end of each block. Please let me know if you'd like to volunteer to proctor a certain event. Block A proctors will miss the IJEA Breakfast, so if you have an important role in that, please let me know so I don't assign you. I will take proctor requests through Friday and then randomly assign any openings on Monday AM. Once all are assigned, I will send the proctors more information. Proctors are welcome to work on devices, answer emails, grade papers, etc. while the students compete. Since I hit on it, the IJEA breakfast will be in a room in Building 13 right by the Auditorium. I will let IJEA send out any further details on that.

LUNCH

Schools are responsible for their own lunch. We recommend ordering local delivery or using the time between Block B ending and Awards beginning to go grab food. There is a Subway on campus that will be open until 2:00 PM.

EVENT LOCATIONS

Still finalizing, but we expect that all events will take place in either Building 4, 5, 7 or 8.



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NON-COMPETITION TIME HANGOUT LOCATIONS

For your students/advisors who are not competing/proctoring, we encourage you to setup shop for the day in the auditorium or in the room across the hall once the IJESA breakfast ends. Students can explore campus, but please tell them to be respectful, as we had a couple of issues last year. Due to Heartland rules, no students or advisers are allowed on the first floor of Building 13 (downstairs from the Auditorium).

GENRES

- Reviewing writing will be comedy.
- Sporting writing will be football.

OTHER EVENT INFO

- Radio news and TV News will report outside following the opening session for a visual presentation and interview sessions, weather permitting. The presentation will occur in the large grass area southeast of ACEC (Building 13). If weather is a potential issue, we will alert you of the new indoor venue.
- Photo Story Telling will receive a list of activities happening on campus that day.
- Copy Editing must be done by hand at state.

GENERAL STATE FINAL SCHEDULE

8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.	Registration
9:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m.	Informational Opening Session in Auditorium
9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.	First Competition - Block A
11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Second Competition Block B
Approx. 3:00 p.m.	Awards in Auditorium

* Event orders are the same as Sectionals, listed below.

** While we'd love for everyone to experience the awards ceremony, if schools have to leave before awards, we understand.

WIFI

Advisers will be provided Wifi info to use when they arrive that can be used by advisers and students.

SWAP TABLE

Please feel free to bring copies of your school newspaper or other publications for a swap table outside the auditorium.

SECTIONAL JUDGE FEEDBACK

Available via Google Drive:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1phAHpopRauSSxtxDPIh786UAaf_h5NEi?dmr=1&e=c=wgc-drive-globalnav-goto

Block Event schedule below...



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BLOCK EVENT SCHEDULE

Block A & B Events (9:30 AM – 1:00 PM)

1. Photo Story Telling
2. Radio News
3. TV News
4. Yearbook Theme Development

Block A Events (9:30 AM – 11:00 AM)

5. News Writing
6. Review Writing
7. Advertising
8. Newspaper Design
9. Yearbook Caption Writing
10. Infographics
11. Copy Editing

Block B Events (11:30 AM to 1:00 PM)

12. Feature Writing
13. Headline Writing
14. Yearbook Copy Writing
15. Yearbook Page Design
16. Editorial Cartooning
17. Editorial Writing
18. Sports Writing