

# USU Hosts Annual Academic Olympiad for 26 Utah High Schools



Teammates enjoy the Academic Olympiad event in January 2025.

In January, more than 200 students from 26 Utah high schools participated in the Academic Olympiad, where students demonstrated their academic skills in math, science, language arts, and social studies. The Academic Olympiad is held every January on the USU Logan Campus. The collaboration between the Northern Utah Curriculum Consortium (NUCC) and USU began in 1985, and the partnership has continued to honor the academic skills of high schools in Northern Utah.

“USU’s longstanding partnership with the Northern Utah Curriculum Consortium (NUCC) continues to provide valuable opportunities for students to showcase their academic talents. Collaborations like this not only highlight the incredible potential of our young learners, but they also create memorable and impactful educational experiences that inspire growth, foster community, and celebrate excellence,” says Max Longhurst, professional practice associate professor and USU NCCU representative.

The Olympiads compete in timed assessments in the subjects of math, science, language arts, and social studies. Students were allowed to compete in both the individual and group events, and medals were awarded in gold, silver, and bronze categories. The top three in each category are given awards. This year, top honors went to Logan High School, which took first place overall.

“I’m just so proud of their dedication and preparation. I expect a lot of my students,” says Jason Soffe, social studies teacher at Logan High School and coach for the Academic Olympiad team for the past 21 years. “Most of the preparation for the Olympiad isn’t done after school in

the weeks leading up to the competition, but rather in the four years the students have been at Logan High.”

Soffe explains that many of his students enroll in advanced placement classes to prepare them to become familiar with the subject matter. “These kids have been preparing for this their whole high school career; they just didn’t know it.”

Students begin the Olympiad with the individual competition in each subject, then the school team comes together for the “Battle of Olympus.” In this group competition, each of the school teams are asked the same questions. Next, teams take turns answering the questions. Each correct answer increases the team’s total score.

This year, there was a three-way tie between three high schools, which required a tiebreaker. Logan High School was ultimately named the winner.

“The enthusiasm and active participation of these high school students highlight the need to celebrate academic success. We are thrilled to help showcase the excellence of all the participating students,” shares Max Longhurst.

To learn how to enter a high school team in the 2026 Academic Olympiad, please contact [Max Longhurst](#).