



2025 Mardi Gras Classic Tournament

February 14 – 16, 2025

Dear Colleagues,

The LSU Speech & Debate Team is pleased to invite your program to compete in the 2025 Mardi Gras Classic hosted February 14th through the 16th at LSU's Baton Rouge campus. This will be the first time that this tournament has been hosted since the COVID-19 pandemic, and we would love to have your program participate in this revival of a classic tournament. We're excited to welcome you all to our campus for rigorous competition and celebrating at awards Mardi Gras style!

On the debate end, Friday will feature a full Team IPDA tournament with four preliminary rounds and three scheduled elimination rounds. Saturday will feature six preliminary rounds of IPDA Debate across four offered divisions (Novice, JV, Varsity, and Professional). Sunday will conclude IPDA with elimination rounds.

On the individual events end, Saturday and Sunday will each feature a full IE tournament offering 11 AFA-NST individual events, with two preliminary rounds in each flight and a final round.

Details and schedule are below. We hope to see you there!

Jonathan Bridenbaker

Director of Forensics

Louisiana State University

jbridenbaker@lsu.edu

Brandon Reynolds

Assistant Director of Forensics

Louisiana State University

brey26@lsu.edu

Registration

The deadline for entries will be **Tuesday, February 11th at 5pm CST**. Drops will be accepted until Wednesday, February 12th at 5pm. Registration will be available on Forensics Tournaments at: <https://forensicstournament.net/MardiGrasSwing/25>.

Payment of registration fees can be done in cash or by check.

Checks can be made payable to:

DSR-TKA

Coates 136

Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Entry Fees

- IPDA Entry: \$25 each
Uncovered IPDA Entry: \$50 each
- TIPDA Entry: \$40 each
Uncovered TIPDA Entry: \$80 each
- Individual Event Entry: \$15 each
Uncovered Individual Event Entry: \$30 each

Judging

All judges for both debate & IEs will be committed to the duration of the tournament unless otherwise communicated with tournament staff. Judges for individual events must be those with relevant experience including graduate students, performance specialists, and coaching staff. Judges for IPDA & TIPDA must meet the IPDA's lay judge criteria: being 18 years of age or older and having a high school diploma.

Please ensure that all of your entries are covered, as the requirements stipulate below:

- IPDA: One judge covers 4 IPDA entries.
- TIPDA: One judge covers 2 TIPDA entries.
- IE: One judge covers 6 Individual Event entries.

Statement on Ethical Standards for Competition

The LSU Speech & Debate Team takes a strong position on the necessity of equal opportunity in tournament competition for all people. This tournament will not tolerate disrespect, hate, or discrimination against others on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, physical ability, or economic status. If you experience an issue in regard to unfair treatment or violations of Title IX, please contact our Tournament Director, Jonathan Bridenbaker, jbridenbaker@lsu.edu.

Hotels Near Campus

Baton Rouge Marriott

5500 Hilton Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70808
(225) 924-5000

Econo Lodge Baton Rouge

3010 Valley Creek Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808
(225) 930-5483

Hampton Inn Baton Rouge

4646 Constitution Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70808
(225) 926-9990

Comfort Inn University Area

4924 Constitution Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70808
(225) 590-5186

Directions

To get to LSU's campus coming from I-10, take the Dalrymple Dr. exit and continue that road until you run into the LSU campus, then turn left onto Tower Dr.

Parking

For Friday: Parking for Friday will tentatively be at the Thomas Boyd Hall lot in reserved spots. A parking pass would need to be picked up from the kiosk next to the lot on Dalrymple Dr. Only 10 permits will be available. Each school will only be allowed one permit each. Schools coming in multiple vehicles will need to pay for metered parking for those extra vehicles.

For Saturday & Sunday: Parking on campus is completely open on Saturday and Sunday. Parking available in Coates Hall lot or on the Parade grounds lot.

Food Options

Lunch will be offered on Saturday in the form of pizza. Sunday lunch will be on each individual team.

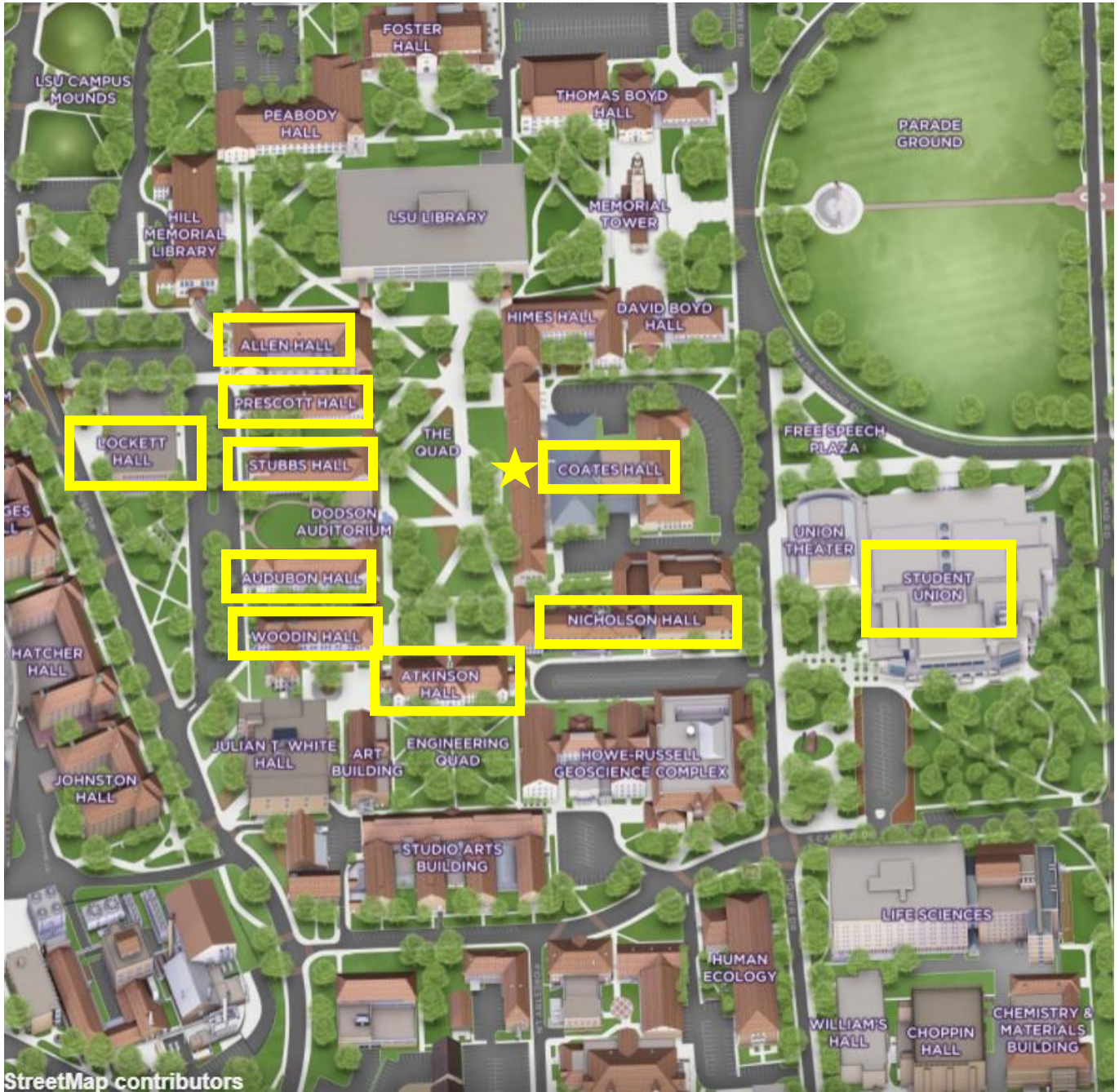
On-campus (Student Union):

Sushi Nori, Sonic, Einstein Bros Bagels, CC's Coffee House, City Slice, Red Stick Subs & Salads, Bon File, Smoothie King, Chick-fil-a, Panda Express

Nearby Off-campus:

Raising Canes, Chipotle, Jack in the Box, Buffalo Wild Wings, The Chimes, Roul's Deli

Campus Map



Event Descriptions

Below are descriptions of the different events offered at our tournament. To note, students may not cross-enter in IPDA and IEs given the schedule constraints.

Flight A Individual Events

The following events will be offered for this tournament (as defined by AFA-NST):

Extemporaneous Speaking: Contestants will be given three topics in the general area of current event, choose one, and have 30 minutes to prepare a speech that is the original work of the student. Maximum time limit for the speech is 7 minutes. Limited notes are permitted. Student will speak in listed order. Postings of topics will be staggered.

Persuasive Speaking: An original speech by the student designed to inspire, reinforce, or change the beliefs, attitudes, values or actions of the audience. Audio-visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. Multiple sources should be used and cited in the development of the speech. Minimal notes are permitted. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Communication Analysis: An original speech by the student designed to offer an explanation and/or evaluation of a communication event such as a speech, speaker, movement, poem, poster, film, campaign, etc., through the use of rhetorical principles. Audio-visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. Manuscripts are permitted. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Prose Interpretation: An original or selections of prose material of literary merit, which may be drawn from more than one source. Focus of this event is on the development of the narrative/story. Play cuttings and poetry are prohibited. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time is 10 minutes including introduction.

Program of Oral Interpretation: A program of thematically-linked selections of literary merit, chosen from two or three recognized genres of competitive interpretation (prose/poetry/drama). A primary focus of this event should be on the development of the theme through the use of narrative/story, language, and/or characterization. A substantial portion of the total time must be devoted to each of the genres used in the program. Different genre means the material must appear in separate pieces of literature (e.g., A poem included in a short story that appears only in that short story does not constitute a poetry genre.) Only one selection may be original. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes including introduction.

Duo Interpretation: A cutting from one or more texts of literary merit, humorous or serious, involving the portrayal of two or more characters presented by two individuals. The material may be drawn from any genre of literature. This is not an acting event; thus, no costumes, props, lighting, etc, are to be used. Presentation is from the manuscript and the focus should be off-stage and not to each other. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes including introduction.

Flight B Individual Events

Impromptu Speaking: An impromptu speech, substantive in nature, with topic selections varied by round and by section. Topics will be derived from quotations. Speakers will have a total of 7 minutes for both preparation and speaking. Timing commences with the acceptance of the topics sheet. Limited notes are permitted.

Informative Speaking: An original, factual speech by the student on a realist subject to fulfill the general aim to inform the audience. Audio-visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. Multiple sources should be used and cited in the development of the speech. Minimal notes are permitted. Maximum time is 10 minutes.

After Dinner Speaking: An original, humorous speech by the student, designed to exhibit sound speech composition, thematic, coherence, direct communicative public speaking skills, and good taste. The speech should not resemble a night club act, an impersonation, or comic dialogue. Audio-visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforced the message. Minimal notes are permitted. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Dramatic Interpretation: A cutting that represents one or more characters from a play or plays of literary merit. The focus of this event is on the development of characterization. This material may be drawn from stage, screen, or radio. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes including introduction.

Poetry Interpretation: A selection or selections of poetry of literary merit, which may be drawn from more than one source. A primary focus of this event should be on the development of language. Play cuttings and prose works are prohibited. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes including introduction.

Debate Events: IPDA & TIPDA

The formats of debate being offered are IPDA and Team IPDA. The IPDA rules for this tournament will follow the IPDA Constitution, available at.

Four divisions of IPDA will be offered, including Novice, Junior Varsity, Varsity, and Professional. The time format will follow the 5-2-6-2-3-5-3 time format with a 30-minute prep time. One division of Team IPDA will be offered on Friday, following the 4-2-5-2-5-2-4-2-3-4-4-3-time format with a 30-minute prep time.

Schedule

Friday, February 14th

8:00 am	Check-in
9:00 am	TIPDA Rd 1
10:30 am	TIPDA Rd 2
12:00 pm	Lunch Break
1:00 pm	TIPDA Rd 3
2:30 pm	TIPDA Rd 4
3:00 pm	Coaches' Review
4:00 pm	TIPDA Elim 1
5:30 pm	TIPDA Elim 2
7:00 pm	TIPDA Elim 3
8:30 pm	TIPDA Elim 4 (if needed)

Saturday, February 15th

7:00 am	Check-in	
7:30 am	Extemp Prep	
8:00 am	Round 1A	IPDA Rd 1
9:30 am	Round 1B	IPDA Rd 2
11:00 am	-----Lunch Break-----	
11:30am	Extemp Prep	
12:00 pm	Round 2A	IPDA Rd 3
1:30 pm	Round 2B	IPDA Rd 4
3:00 pm	Finals Extemp Prep	
3:15 pm	Flight A Finals	IPDA Rd 5
4:45 pm	Flight B Finals	IPDA Rd 6
5:30 pm	Mardi Gras Party	IPDA Coaches' Review
6:30/7 pm	----- Awards -----	

Sunday, February 16th

7:00 am	Check-in	
7:30 am	Extemp Prep	
8:00 am	Round 1A	IPDA Elim 1
9:30 am	Round 1B	IPDA Elim 2
11:00 am	-----Lunch Break-----	
11:30am	Extemp Prep	
12:00 pm	Round 2A	IPDA Elim 3
1:30 pm	Round 2B	IPDA Elim 4 (if needed)
3:00 pm	Finals Extemp Prep	
3:15 pm	Flight A Finals	
4:45 pm	Flight B Finals	
6:00 pm	----- Awards -----	

Awards

The following awards will be given across the tournament:

- IPDA/TIPDA outrounds, trophies for Quarterfinals up, all other outrounds will come in the form of a certificate.
- Top five speaker awards for each division of IPDA & TIPDA (5th & 4th as medals, 3rd through 1st as trophies).
- All Individual Events will be awarded medals for 6th through 3rd; trophies will be awarded for 2nd and 1st place.
- Debate Sweeps from 3rd through 1st will be awarded in the form of trophies.
- Individual Sweeps from 3rd through 1st will be awarded in the form of trophies.
- Overall Sweeps from 3rd through 1st will be awarded in the form of trophies.