

Investment Casting Institute's
UNIVERSITY
2026 CASTING CONTEST

This year's theme is a
**Decorative
Accent Lamp**

The Investment Casting Institute's Third Annual Technical Conference & Exhibition features a Casting Contest for University students. This year, students are asked to design and cast a decorative and functional accent lamp.



WINNER RECEIVES \$2,500

**All Entries Receive Individual ICI Membership for a YEAR
and FULL ACCESS to the Technical Conference & Expo!**

DEADLINE JULY 1st, 2026

**Contest winner to be announced at the
ICI's 73rd Annual Technical Conf. & Expo in
Grand Rapids, MI. • Oct. 25 – Oct. 28, 2026.**



Investment Casting Institute University Casting Contest- 2026 Decorative Accent Lamp

This casting contest is open to all North American universities. Castings will be judged and on display at the ICI's 73rd Annual Technical Conference in Grand Rapids, MI. Please complete this form, including the described summary detailed below and return to the ICI by July 1, 2026.

Student Name _____
Email address _____
Phone number _____

University Name _____
Address 1 _____
Address 2 _____
City, State Zip _____

Industry Partner _____
Industry Partner _____
Industry Partner _____

Casting Name _____
Casting Dimensions _____
Casting Weight _____
Pattern _____
Shell _____
Post-cast Operations _____
Alloy Used _____

On a separate piece of paper, please write a brief description of the inspiration for the casting (<500 words) and submit with this form. Please include any photos or design sketches. Castings will be judged on aesthetics, functionality, comfort/ergonomics, and creativity.

PLEASE DO NOT SHIP CASTING DIRECTLY TO THE ICI.
PARTS SHOULD BE SHIPPED OR HAND CARRIED
DIRECTLY TO THE CONVENTION CENTER... ADDRESS TO FOLLOW.



Investment Casting Institute

1 Paragon Drive, Suite 110 Montvale, NJ 07645
Phone: 201-573-9770 Fax: 201-573-9771
E-mail: ealmaleh@investmentcasting.org

Design Brief:

2026 Casting

A Decorative, Functioning Accent Lamp

Statement

You are challenged with designing an accent lamp. There will be few requirements that this lamp must achieve but it is important for it to both look beautiful and function. We recommend using or imagining a specific room or space for this lamp as influence for your design. Your design process needs to be well documented; tell us about your successes and failures during the process.

Documentation of production is important as well. Industry cooperation is encouraged, reach out to a local foundry or supplier member of the ICI. The finished lamp should illuminate and be able to be handled and touched. A wow factor is recommended in your design.

Strictly practical designs meeting only the requirements are ok, but we are looking for something cool, a showstopper. Remember, the investment casting process allows features which are not reasonably able to be achieved using other processes.

Requirements:

- The finished accent lamp must be no larger than a 12-inch (305mm) cube.
- Designs must be freestanding. No wall-mounting.
- Lamps must use battery power for their power source. Lamps using ac/mains power or fuel will not be eligible for the prize.
- Designs must be majority investment cast.
- Design and Construction details and inspiration must be documented.
- Designs should not include branding or trademarks such as sports team logos or auto maker emblems.

Things to consider

- Finished castings may be unsealed, or sealed with lacquer, clearcoat, or a wax finish
- Fine finishing is encouraged
 - Fine finishing techniques such as fine grinding, abrasive blasting, patina, and high polish can elevate your casting.
- Heavy paint is discouraged as it can obscure details, and you are showing off your casting.
- Collaboration with foundries and suppliers are not required. You will receive some points for the steps you do yourself, but this is not a large portion of the overall score.
- Students are highly encouraged to collaborate with industry partners and build connections.
 - Industry partners are to be identified; detailing support provided
 - Industry partners must be members of the ICI.

2025 University Casting Contest Design Brief and Specifications

- Members are listed in the member directory on the ICI website.
www.Investmentcasting.org

Judging Criteria

- Aesthetics and Wow-Factor
- Creativity
- Adherence to criteria
- Functionality
- Execution
- Documentation

Proposed Judges

5 volunteer judges

Reg Members (3)

Reg Associate (2)

Scoring

Scores are calculated based on rating each criterion from one to five. Zero may be used if the student did not meet the criteria at all. This should be unlikely and very rare.

1 – Needs Improvement **2** – Fair **3** – Good **4** – Very Good **5** – Excellent

Which ever number is chosen is the number of points that the student is awarded for that part of the score. Some questions deviate from the main score and will be identified on the scorecard.