



Ready to Compete?

GEO-WALL COMPETITION

Regional – There is no advancement to a Society-wide national competition for this competition. However, the National GeoWall Competition is held during the 2025 Geotechnical Frontiers in March 2025. As outlined in Section 5 of the national rules, teams will be selected for the National Finals GeoWall competition based upon scores earned on the design reports. Participating teams are encouraged to submit their Design Report to the Geo-Institute but are not required to do so for regional participation.

Overview

MSE walls have roots to prehistoric builders who used sticks and tree branches to reinforce soil structures. The modern use of reinforced soils dates to the 1960s and French architect Henri Vidal's development of the Reinforced Earth® system. In the US, the first MSE wall was built on California SR-39 near Los Angeles in 1971. Sometimes the construction of MSE walls must account for underground utilities, tunnels or other obstructions. This year's competition will model these obstructions requiring teams to design and construct a MSE wall around a proposed tunnel.

Objective

The objective of the GeoWall competition is to design and build a model mechanically stabilized Earth (MSE) retaining wall using kraft paper taped to a poster board wall facing. The competition objectives are for students to:

- Design a MSE Wall using the least amount of reinforcement needed to support the retained soil and the designed surcharge loads.
- Effectively communicate their analysis and design processes.
- Enjoy a friendly but spirited competition among schools.

Eligibility

Only one team per school will be allowed to compete. A team consists of a maximum of four (4) students consisting of no more than two (2) graduate students. Each team shall designate a team captain.



Rules and Regulations

Please review the national rules for the GeoWall Competition specifications and requirements. Deliverables should conform to the national rules. Teams can download the national rules below. Teams are expected to bring all necessary competition equipment to the competition. Judges will only be providing Backfill Material and Wall Material during the competition. <https://www.mygeoworld.com/groups/geo-challenge>

CLICK HERE 

Submittal

- The design report will be submitted electronically on or before 11:59 PM EST February 7, 2025.
- A completed submission will consist of a single pdf
- The Design Report Submittal will include the items outlined in Section 4.
- The name of the pdf file shall follow this format: GeoWall 2025 Submittal – Name of University.pdf
- Appendix A is not needed for the regional competition.

- Papers submitted for the Southeast Student Symposium may also be submitted to the National GeoWall Competition.

Judges

Judges will score competition entries according to the scoring rubrics in the national rules.

Important Dates

- Release of Student Symposium Competition Rules and Regulations on September 12, 2024.
- Design Reports Due for the national competition by 6:00 PM PST December 20, 2024. Must be submitted in PDF format via email to bajmera@iastate.edu as outlined in section 4 of the national rules.
- Design Reports Due for the Southeast Student Symposium by 11:59 PM EST February 7, 2025 through this link: [GeoWall Report Submission](#)
- 2025 ASCE Southeast Student Symposium March 6-8, 2025 in Athens, Ga.
- Competition time and location will be released closer to event.



Questions

Requests for information (RFI) must be sent to asce@uga.edu with the subject line "GeoWall Competition RFI".