



2026 ASC Competition

Region 2 Graduate Competition Pre-Problem Statement

Sponsored by DPR Construction

Introduction

Thank You!

Thank you for competing and taking on the challenge of educating yourself in this unique way. DPR is excited to sponsor the Graduate Competition problem at the 2026 ASC Student Competition. As leaders of your student groups today, you have set your paths to becoming the Construction Industry's leading members of tomorrow. We hope to challenge your team's ability to leverage academic knowledge, intuition, problem-solving skills, and your ability to have fun in a high intensity environment.

DPR's Culture and Project Approach

DPR Construction was founded in 1990 by Doug Woods, Peter Nosler and Ron Davidowski, the D, the P and the R, who set out to develop a company that cultivates an entrepreneurial, open-office environment based on a well-defined purpose, "We Exist to Build Great Things", great relationships, great teams, great buildings, and great people. DPR's culture revolves around our Core Values:

INTEGRITY. We conduct all business with the highest standards of honesty and fairness; we can be trusted.

ENJOYMENT. We believe work should be fun and intrinsically satisfying; if we are not enjoying ourselves, we are doing something wrong.

UNIQUENESS. We must be different from and more progressive than all other construction companies; we stand for something.

EVER FORWARD. We believe in continual self-initiated change, improvement, learning and the advancement of standards for their own sake.

We would encourage each of you to read more at: <https://www.dpr.com/company/culture>.

Project Management Problem Introduction and Intent

- a. DPR has recently won an exciting new project! Your competition team will act as members of DPR Construction tasked with evaluating the project, preparing a plan for project execution, and evaluating the major risks associated. You are empowered to make key business and contractual decisions based on information at hand along with your expertise and assumptions. Your decisions will have significant consequences that impact the success of the project. The deals that you negotiate will map the road ahead but also expose you to possible roadblocks. You are expected to adapt to situations, engineer solutions, demonstrate DPR's Core Values, and develop a resolution to the project path that lies ahead. The intent of the Project Management problem is to ensure a project runs smoothly, which starts long before we ever break ground. By understanding and managing possible risks you will create a plan to prevent or address them ahead of time. Participants of the Project Management problem will complete the following deliverables throughout the competition:
 - i. Analyze and select an owner contract to begin the development of the project deal
 - ii. Create a construction budget through subcontractor selection and general conditions development
 - iii. Establish the project schedule – via production planning, milestones, or phasing
 - iv. Solving complex construction problems



WE EXIST TO BUILD GREAT THINGS



- b. Preparation – Teams should be prepared to complete the problem utilizing the following skills:
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| i. Business Ethics and Integrity | xi. Scheduling and Sequencing |
| ii. Understanding Project Delivery Methods | xii. Site Logistics and Construction Preparation |
| iii. Contract Evaluation | xiii. Managing Schedule and Budget Risks with the client, designers and subcontractors. |
| iv. Project Risk Assessment | xiv. Creative Thinking and Problem Solving |
| v. Scope of Work Qualifications | xv. Drawing and Specification Review |
| vi. Schedule Impacts and Delays | xvi. Material procurement and coordination |
| vii. Contingency and Allowances | xvii. Communication Teamwork/Team Building |
| viii. Subcontractor Bid Review | |
| ix. Scope of Work Comparisons | |
| x. Company Qualifications and Evaluations | |

Problem Description

All projects have critical requirements that must be met. Budget and schedule objectives are obvious; however other criteria may include quality, sustainability, safety, reputation etc. To successfully execute a project, we not only need to meet these requirements, but we must prove that we can exceed these goals and satisfy our customers.

As stated before, in this problem you will be challenged to create a comprehensive plan that recognizes the accepted risk and creates a strategy to contain that risk while maintaining a satisfied client. Your team's objective is to set the project up for success through risk evaluation, prime contract negotiation, subcontractor bid validation, schedule development, and general conditions valuation.

Outline of Events

a. Pre-Competition Activities

Your team will receive a template of a placemat DPR would like you to complete and send back to us (via email, continue reading for more information). These placemats will help our judging panel familiarize ourselves with your teams. Once you've created your team email (see below for more information on emails), you will receive the template.

Additionally, your team should familiarize themselves with the programs to be used during the competition, listed below.

- Smart Sheet or Microsoft Project
- Microsoft Excel
- Bluebeam Take Off
- On Screen Take Off

b. Competition Activities

When the problem commences you will be given the following primary contract documents (all documents will be distributed in electronic format):

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| • Project Specific Contracts | • Subcontract Assessment Form |
| • Contract Assessment Form | • General Conditions List |
| • Subcontractor Bids | • Drawings & Specifications |



After reviewing these documents, you will need to understand the terms and conditions of the contract, the project parameters, set the project budget, and create a baseline schedule to create your project plan.

Your team's goal is to provide a comprehensive plan for the project with the information and criteria at hand, and work to defend your position with reasons developed during the competition. During the competition, the teams will manage scenarios that will impact budget, safety or schedule, for example:

- Scope Buy-out process: Review & Select Subcontractors
- Site Conditions & Set Up
- Project Planning and Phasing
- Scheduled Scopes of Work
- Resolution of Unforeseen Situations

Your team's performance will be measured on the following scales: Risk Assessment & Mitigation, Budget, Schedule and Reputation. These scales will be updated continually based on the decisions made. Upon completion of the project, you will be presenting a final contract, sub selection, schedule, and budget. Most importantly, identifying the possible risks the company faces in taking on and the potential mitigation strategies. Presentations will be in a debriefing format where we will be discussing the rationale behind the decisions made and your ideas for what could have done differently to return a more favorable result.

Logistics

- a. During the competition, please refer to the subject of your email correspondence in the subject line to maintain clarity. Except for the scheduled meeting times, information from your team to the problem sponsor's team should be transmitted via email.
- b. All documents will be relayed to your team electronically.
- c. **PRIOR TO THE COMPETITION:** Your team will be responsible with creating a team email (for example: asc.2026.csulb@gmail.com). When you have created your email, email Matt O'Malley at mattom@dpr.com to receive additional pre-problem documents. **Please include each team members resume.** It is recommended that you familiarize yourselves with the email system in advance of the competition. **Pre-problem information is due October 30, 2026.**



Scoring

You will be graded on your ability to execute a plan that is not only profitable but makes your client a raving fan. It will also require you to balance competing goals like cost, schedule, quality, safety, sustainability, etc. Below, you can see an example of the scoring rubric used in previous years' problems. This year's problem will be graded similarly, but with minor variations made due to module difficulty.

- a. Contract Assessment – 15%
- b. Project Schedule of Values and General Conditions – 15%
- c. Project Schedule – 10%
- d. Site Logistics/Safety – 10%
- e. Breakout Session Activities – 10%
- f. Risk Register and Mitigation Analysis – 15%
- g. Presentation – 25%

Questions?

Please contact Matt O'Malley at mattom@dpr.com.