

2021 Virtual Texas Area Conferences Medical Spelling

TIMELINE

January 6: 2021 Virtual Texas Area Conference Registration Deadline (all areas)

January 15: Login Credentials Deadline for Online Testing (emailed to competitors)
Virtual Opening Session (see full schedule for the time)

January 18: Online Test (8:00 am to 8:00 pm CST)

January 20: Conference Registration fees due

January 21: Round Two Finalists posted by 10:00 am CST
Appointment times and Zoom link emailed to competitors

January 28: Live Spell-down with judges from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm CST by appointment

February 10: Virtual Grand Awards Session (see full schedule for the time)



GUIDELINE MODIFICATIONS



- The round one test will be 30 minutes instead of 60 minutes. The testing system will automatically countdown time remaining. The test will still have 50 questions.
- Competitors will take the test in the online testing system anytime in the 12-hour window on January 18.
- Top scoring competitors on the round one test will advance to a live individual spell-down with the judges over the Zoom platform.
- In the live spell-down, competitors will meet with judges one-at-a-time.
- Once admitted to the Zoom meeting, competitors will be introduced to judges, and will be given two practice terms. The practice terms are to ensure everyone's technology is working and to allow the competitor to ensure they understand the format of the spell-down with judges.
- Numbers will not be drawn from a fishbowl. All competitors will be given the same list of words, in the same order. The words get progressively harder as the competitor continues down the list.
- Competitors will continue spelling until they miss a word – some competitors may misspell the first word, and be out, while others may continue spelling for two, three, four words, etc. The maximum number of words that will be offered to a competitor is 15. If a competitor spells all 15 words correctly, they will be stopped, and judges will move on to the next competitor. If multiple competitors spell all 15 words correctly, then the round one test will be used to break the tie. If the test scores are the same, the competitors will be identified as co-winners.

- The same rules will apply as described in the original event guidelines regarding definitions, pronunciations, and time allowed to spell each word.

TECHNOLOGY NEEDS



TESTING

- Tests can be taken on a smartphone, tablet, or computer.
- Go to **testing.hosa.org** to access the testing system. Login credentials will be emailed directly to competitors by January 15. If the competitor does not have an email on file, the information will be sent to their local chapter advisor for distribution.
- Click [HERE](#) for online testing instructions.
- If you have any issues logging in, accessing online testing, or if you did not receive your password and login information via email by January 18, please call the CE Help Line immediately. 1-877-728-0150

ZOOM

- For the live round two spell-down, this event will be using the Zoom platform.
- For a seamless event experience, competitors should download Zoom ahead of time to the device they plan to use for competition.
- Competitors should change/setup the “Display Name” in the Zoom account they plan to use so that it matches the name used for conference registration. Using the same name will ensure event staff recognize you and will admit you seamlessly into the live event.
- Competitors will be EMAILED a specific Zoom meeting link and password to use the day of the event. These will be emailed out at the same time the list of round two competitors is posted online on January 21.
- 10 minutes before their scheduled appointment time, competitors should click on the Zoom meeting link in the email. Competitors will be placed in a virtual “waiting room” and must wait to be admitted by the event staff.
- Ensuring the Zoom Display name matches the Conference Registration Name will help avoid delays and issues while you are waiting to be admitted.
- Once you are admitted to the live Zoom event from the Waiting Room, you will see the judges and event staff already on the screen. Event staff will do a roll call to confirm the correct competitor and you will be asked to introduce yourself to test your audio and video. Video capability is required for this event.
- If you have trouble connecting to the Zoom meeting, call the CE Help Line immediately. 1-877-728-0150
- If you get logged off in the middle of the event for some reason, immediately try connecting to the Zoom link again to re-enter. If that does not work, keep trying and call the CE Help Line immediately. 1-877-728-0150

PARTICIPANT SAFETY

Participant safety is a top priority for HOSA. Zoom.us is the video and virtual conferencing platform that will be used to conduct many HOSA Virtual Area Spring Conference components, including competitions and area officer applicant interviews. Several restrictions will be used to protect participants in the platform. Every individual competition room used will have a unique passcode. That passcode will only be made available to judges and participants in that round. The ability to use Zoom backgrounds will be turned off. The ability to share screens and file share through the chat will be turned off. Waiting room features will be turned on for all events, so only authorized competitors and staff will be granted access. The Private Chat feature will be disabled to prevent communication that event moderators cannot see. All judges and competitors will be given a strict naming process that must be used in each event (e.g., Competitor – Suzy Smith) so that all persons may be easily identified. Finally, conference staff and competitive event volunteers will be monitoring all Zoom rooms during competition. They will quickly remove anyone violating competition policy. Competitors may report disruptions to the conference helpline, where staff will be prepared to handle any problems immediately.

SECURITY & ETHICS

- All competitors are required to review the Virtual Texas Area Conference Security and Ethical Statement found [HERE](#).

DRESS CODE

- As Future Health Professionals, HOSA members should present themselves in a professional manner for all recorded video presentations and/or live events as part of the Texas HOSA Virtual Area Spring Conference; however, dress code bonus points will not be awarded this year.