

Ohio University Forensics



Program Overview

The Ohio University Forensics Team sponsors competition in eleven individual events and an opportunity to compete in one format of debate. Students, under the direct supervision of the coaching staff, may choose to compete in public speaking events (Informative Speaking, Persuasive Speaking, After Dinner Speaking, and Rhetorical Criticism), limited preparation events (Extemporaneous Speaking and Impromptu Speaking), and oral interpretation events (Prose Interpretation, Poetry Interpretation, Dramatic Interpretation, Dramatic Duo Interpretation, and Program of Oral Interpretation). This year we will also offer Parliamentary Debate (two-person team debate) at the Ohio Forensics Association sponsored tournaments and a few other regional competitions.

In preparation for nationals, the team travels to approximately 25 regular season tournament each year. This year, the team has traveled to tournaments throughout the state of Ohio and made trips to Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Nebraska, and Virginia. At these tournaments, students earn qualifications for the National Forensics Association Individual Events Tournament which is held each April. The 2010 NFA National Tournament will be hosted by Ohio University in Athens, OH.

In 2008-2009, the team has 21 undergraduate competitors.

Program Goals

The goal of the Ohio University Forensics Team is to excel at the National Forensics Association Individual Events Tournament. Ohio University won the first NFA National Tournament and has placed first in open sweepstakes a total of four times. Students from OU have earned 22 national titles and Ohio University is only one of four schools that have won the tournament more than once. Clearly, the Ohio University Forensics Team is the most successful team at OU.

In addition to national rankings, the team is also assessed on growth and participation. The Ohio University Forensics Team serves as a venue for students, campus-wide, to perfect the craft of public speaking and performance.

Record of Achievement (since 1999)

National Forensics Association Individual Events Tournament Team Sweepstakes

- 2000 – 6th Place – Open Division
- 2001 – 11th Place – Open Division, 4th Place – President's Division I
- 2002 – 8th Place – Open Division, 3rd Place – President's Division I
- 2003 – 6th Place – President's Division I
- 2005 – 8th Place – President's Division III
- 2006 – 35th Place – Open Division, 4th Place – President's Division III
- 2007 – 11th Place – Open Division, 2nd Place – President's Division I
- 2008 – 11th Place – Open Division, 2nd Place – President's Division I

National Forensics Association Pentathlon Awards (Students with 5 or more events)

- 2001 – 16th Place – Nathaniel Grow
- 2002 – 7th Place – Rob Barnhart
- 2002 – 12th Place – Erin Gallagher
- 2003 – 2nd Place – Rob Barnhart

National Forensics Association Individual Events Student Placings

- 2000 – 2nd Place – Prose Interpretation – Bobby Imbody
- 2000 – 5th Place – Informative Speaking – Justin Zabor
- 2000 – 5th Place – Rhetorical Criticism – Erika Mason
- 2000 – Semifinalist – After Dinner Speaking – Betsy McCann
- 2000 – Semifinalist – Extemporaneous Speaking – Nathaniel Grow
- 2000 – Semifinalist – Persuasive Speaking – Erin Gallagher
- 2000 – Semifinalist – Poetry Interpretation – Justin Zabor
- 2000 – Quarterfinalist – Informative Speaking – Upendri Gunasekera
- 2000 – Quarterfinalist – Impromptu Speaking – Betsy McCann
- 2000 – Double Octafinalist – Lincoln-Douglas Debate – Michael Blauvet
- 2001 – 3rd Place – After Dinner Speaking – Nathaniel Grow
- 2001 – 4th Place – Rhetorical Criticism – Erin Gallagher
- 2001 – Semifinalist – Extemporaneous Speaking – Rob Barnhart
- 2001 – Semifinalist – Informative Speaking – Erin Gallagher
- 2001 – Semifinalist – Informative Speaking – Nathaniel Grow
- 2001 – Quarterfinalist – Informative Speaking – Cara Lewis
- 2001 – Quarterfinalist – Impromptu Speaking – Nathaniel Grow
- 2001 – Quarterfinalist – Rhetorical Criticism – Nathaniel Grow
- 2002 – National Champion – Extemporaneous Speaking – Rob Barnhart
- 2002 – National Champion – Impromptu Speaking – Rob Barnhart
- 2002 – 4th Place – Persuasive Speaking – Erin Gallagher
- 2002 – 5th Place – Rhetorical Criticism – Erin Gallagher
- 2002 – 6th Place – Informative Speaking – Erin Gallagher
- 2002 – Semifinalist – Persuasive Speaking – Rob Barnhart
- 2002 – Quarterfinalist – Poetry Interpretation – Courtney Desman
- 2003 – National Champion – Impromptu Speaking – Rob Barnhart
- 2003 – 2nd Place – Extemporaneous Speaking – Rob Barnhart
- 2003 – 4th Place – Lincoln-Douglas Speaker – Rob Barnhart
- 2003 – 5th Place – Informative Speaking – Rob Barnhart
- 2003 – 6th Place – Rhetorical Criticism – Rob Barnhart
- 2003 – Quarterfinalist – Lincoln-Douglas Debate – Rob Barnhart
- 2005 – Double Octafinalist – Lincoln-Douglas Debate – Sarah Slavik
- 2006 – Quarterfinalist – Persuasive Speaking – Daniel DiLoreto
- 2007 – 3rd Place – Informative Speaking – Dan Glaser
- 2007 – 4th Place – Original Shakespeare Interpretation – Dan Glaser
- 2007 – 5th Place – Original Shakespeare Interpretation – Dani Bernat
- 2007 – Semifinalist – Rhetorical Criticism – Jesse Branner
- 2008 – 6th Place – Persuasive Speaking – Ted Dacey
- 2008 – Semifinalist – Impromptu Speaking – Chris Glaser