

Utah Collegiate Improv Festival

March 21-22, 2026

Festival Overview

This is the fifth year of Utah's only collegiate level improv festival. We are so excited for this year of UCIF! The festival was founded by UVU alumni, Hallie Purser and Tristin Jaurez-Smith. They

wanted a way for their school and improv team to get more involved in the Utah improv community, to push themselves, and to get to know and learn from the other improv teams from different college campuses. The festival is held in March on a Utah campus, with professional improv performers from Utah local teams as the judges for the rounds. The college teams have the opportunity to compete in the Short Form and/or Long Form Improv rounds.



Teams are not required to participate in both, but it is suggested as it affects the likelihood of receiving the year's "Overall Best Improv Performance" award. Teams also have the opportunity to participate in Improv Workshops taught by the invited guests, even if they are not competing. We highly encourage teams to stay to watch the other school's teams perform in their rounds. This assists with an atmosphere of audience participation/support, and the ability to learn from the other college's techniques.

Requirements

Those able to participate in the festival are college improv teams or college improv clubs in Utah and surrounding states. There currently is not a preliminary round to participate in the festival, so a team can simply register and pay the small fee of \$40 to enter. Performers competing in

2

the team MUST be current college students or alumni who have graduated within the last year. Teams need a college affiliation as they will be representing their University in the competition. Only 1 team per college is allowed to participate. (For example: If there were two separate improv clubs from USU, they would either need to compete as one team, or decide who would be participating.)

Performance Requirements

We ask that teams performing do not wear team shirts if they have their school names on them, or anything that would give away their school. Otherwise costumes and use of props are up to the team's discretion. There is not a minimum or maximum of members allowed to perform. During the Short Form round, teams are allowed 30 minutes to perform and during the Long Form round, teams are allowed 30 minutes. You will not be penalized for going under that time. Schools are encouraged to bring audience members to watch the rounds. We ask that if your improv performance requires audience participation that you do not ask the judges for suggestions.

Participation Fee

There will be a participation fee of \$40 for each team as a whole. This will be requested very close to the actual dates of the festival so if a team needed to back out due to unforeseen conflicts, there is less of a chance of having to refund the team.

Improv Workshops

Students may participate in the improv workshops made available by the festival. The workshops are taught by seasoned professional improv performers. Students can participate individually and will get to interact with the students from other participating college teams. At UCIF we aim to celebrate the successes of students, but also encourage continued training and progression in the art form of improv. If a team does not wish to participate in the competition, they can still attend the workshops by paying the participation fee.

Awards & Judging

The teams will be judged based on how often and well executed various improv techniques are used. The rubrics are slightly different for each type of improv and are attached to the back. The main awards are Best Team Player Award (given to a student) and Best Short Form Improv Performance, Best Long Form Improv Performance, and Best Overall Improv Performance (given to the team). These are based on a point system on the rubric. 1 being a beginners

understanding of the improv technique, and 5 being the technique used at the level of a professional team. There are also other individual awards based on the judges' thoughts on the performances.