

NOBCChE Regional Infrastructure Rollout

Frequently Asked Questions

From the REACH & RAC Information Session — February 3, 2026

Q1: Are the awards for both professional and student chapters, or just student chapters?

A: The awards are for all chapters. The RAC as well as the awards are for both student and professional chapters, as well as chapters that are a combination of both.

Q2: Can a sitting local e-board member also be a RAC co-chair?

A: Yes. There is no stipulation against it. However, the individual should consider their bandwidth in managing both an e-board position and a RAC co-chair position.

Q3: For the chapter requirements, is everything starting fresh this year, or are previous years being considered for compliance?

A: We are starting fresh. This year (2025–26) will serve as a trial run to identify any gaps in the reporting form and process. The first required reporting year for all chapters will be Academic Year 2026–27.

Q4: Are there specific requirements to be eligible for RAC nominations?

A: Yes. All nominees must be paid national members. Undergraduates should have at least two years remaining in their degree track. Postdocs and professionals must be located in their region for the duration of the two-year term. Graduate students should be mindful of their workload (e.g., prelims, dissertation defense) and ability to fulfill the full two-year term.

Q5: If someone is in one region for a year but then moves to another region, would they be ineligible for the RAC since it is a two-year term?

A: We want to avoid overlap within regions, but we understand that life happens — people graduate and relocate. We encourage you to think about this before committing and to serve out your term in your current region before becoming eligible to serve on a RAC in another region.

Q6: How many hours per month are co-chairs expected to commit?

A: The general expectation is approximately four to six hours per month. Co-chairs are expected to meet with their RAC at least quarterly. Specific meeting and communication expectations will be outlined in writing in the nomination form. The co-chair model was adopted specifically so that responsibilities are shared and no single person carries the full workload.

Q7: Can co-chairs run together on the ballot?

A: Absolutely. If you and a colleague both want to serve in the same co-chair position and know you will both be available for the full two-year term, you are encouraged to run together and both submit nominations.

Q8: Are co-chairs expected to pay for travel to the annual national conference?

A: There is no requirement for RAC co-chair members to attend the national conference at this time. While attendance is encouraged, it is not currently built into the RAC expectations. This is something the organization hopes to develop in the future.

Q9: Can a graduate student (not just graduate students) apply to be a RAC member?

A: Yes. Any paid national member of the organization can be a part of the RAC in any capacity — this includes graduate students, professional members, postdocs, and upperclassman undergraduates.

For additional questions, please contact your Regional Chair or visit the NOBCChE website.