The Big Ideas contest is split into two rounds: a pre-proposal round in the fall and a full proposal round in the spring.

Round 1: Pre-proposal
Eligible students are invited to submit a 3-page pre-proposal by Thursday, November 12th, 2015 at 12PM (PST) via the bigideas.berkeley.edu website. Judges will select 5 to 8 teams in each category to continue on to the full proposal round of the contest in the spring. All pre-proposal teams will receive detailed feedback from the judges, regardless of whether or not they are selected as finalists. Pre-proposal applicants will be notified mid-December 2015 if they have been selected as a finalist.

Round 2: Full Proposal
Finalist teams will have the opportunity to develop and refine their pre-proposals into 15-page "full proposals" by expanding on the ideas presented in their pre-proposals, editing their proposals based on judges' feedback, and refining their project ideas through collaboration with a Big Ideas mentor (an industry professional matched to finalists based on mentors' content knowledge and areas of strength). From the finalist pool, judges will select between 2 and 5 award winners in each category.

Pitch Day & People's Choice Awards
Finalist teams can earn additional prize money via 2 additional avenues:

People's Choice Video Contest: All non-finalist and finalist teams will be invited in the spring to submit a 2-minute video about their project to the People's Choice Contest. Voting for this contest is open to the public, and 1 winner will receive an additional $2500 award.

Grand Prize Pitch Day: Select finalists will be invited to attend the Big Ideas Pitch Day in May, where teams pitch their project ideas to a panel of judges. Judges will then select Grand Prize winners to receive an additional award.

Awards Celebration: Big Ideas contest winners will celebrate with friends, family, and Big Ideas affiliates.
2015-16 BIG IDEAS CONTEST

SEPTEMBER

9/9: Info Session
6:30pm PST | B100 Blum Hall
Live stream link: bit.do/ideaslive
Learn more about the goals, timeline, and categories in the 2015-16 Big Ideas contest

10/7: Pre-Proposal Writing Workshop
6:30pm PST | B100 Blum Hall
Live stream link: bit.do/ideaslive
Get guidance and feedback about how to effectively craft your Big Ideas pre-proposal

10/13: Online Info Session for Remote Teams
3:00pm PST | Google Hangout
Live stream link: bit.do/ideaslive
Learn more about the goals, timeline, and categories open to students from campuses other than UC Berkeley

10/28: Pre-Proposal Advising Workshop
6:00pm PST | B100 Blum Hall
(More info will be sent for remote teams!)
Get guidance and feedback about how to effectively craft your Big Ideas pre-proposal

OCTOBER

PRE-PROPOSAL DEADLINE NOVEMBER 12TH 2015 BY 12PM PST

10/14: Idea Generation Dinner
6:00pm PST | B100 Blum Hall
Looking for new teammates or feedback on your idea? Teams will have the opportunity to give a 2 min pitch on their project. Following presentations, teams can network with students interested in joining their teams and discuss project plans over dinner

10/19: Innovators@Cal
Time and Location TBD
Innovators@Cal is an exciting event that fosters idea generation and collaboration across the entire UC Berkeley campus

11/10: Editing Blitz
6:00pm PST | B100 Blum Hall
(More info will be sent for remote teams!)
Big Ideas Advisors will be available to provide last minute feedback on your proposals

NOVEMBER

11/10: Editing Blitz
6:00pm PST | B100 Blum Hall
(More info will be sent for remote teams!)
Big Ideas Advisors will be available to provide last minute feedback on your proposals

DECEMBER

1/24: Final Round Kickoff Event
5:00pm PST | B100 Blum Hall
Teams and mentors will learn about the expectations of the mentorship period and the structure and goals for the final round

1/27: Grand Prize Pitch Day
8:00pm PST | B100 Blum Hall
Select finalist teams will be invited to pitch their project ideas to a panel of judges to possibly receive an additional award

1/27-5/4: People’s Choice Video Contest
View and vote for your favorite Big Ideas video at facebook.com/BigIdeasCal

JANUARY

2/17: Full Proposal Writing Workshop
8:00pm PST | B100 Blum Hall
Get guidance and feedback about how to effectively craft your full proposal

FEBRUARY

MARCH

FULL PROPOSAL DEADLINE MARCH 9TH 2016 BY 12PM PST

APRIL

MAY

JUNE/JULY

FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

WINNERS ANNOUNCED

AWARDS DISTRIBUTED Summer 2016

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT BIGIDEAS.BERKELEY.EDU