

**PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE  
2026 FINGER STYLE ACOUSTIC GUITAR COMPETITION**

**PRIZES**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize: \$600 cash prize
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: \$450 cash prize
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: \$300 cash prize

**LOCATION**

The competition will be held at the Pensacola State College Ashmore Fine Arts Auditorium at 10:00 A.M. on Saturday, February 21, 2026.

**COMPETITION RULES**

1. All contestants must be 18 years old or younger on the day of the competition. A valid picture I. D. or birth certificate will be required to verify eligibility. **Previous 1<sup>st</sup> prize-winners of the Pensacola State College Finger Style Acoustic Guitar Competition are ineligible to participate.**
2. All competition applications must be received by Friday, February 13, 2026.
3. On the day of the competition, all contestants must sign in at the registration desk by 9:45 a.m. in the lobby of the Pensacola State College Ashmore Fine Arts Auditorium.
4. All contestants must play acoustic instruments. No amplification will be permitted.
5. It is recommended that the contestants have their music memorized, but it is not required.
6. All musical selections that are performed must be complete compositions. Excerpts of compositions will not be accepted.
7. The recommended maximum playing time for each contestant is 5-10 minutes.
8. Contestants may choose two musical selections, preferably in contrasting styles.

9. Each contestant may retune their instrument between pieces using a portable electronic tuner. Time spent retuning your instrument on stage will be included as part of the maximum playing time of 10 minutes.
10. Only one instrument will be allowed per contestant.
11. Standard or traditional style capos may be used. Capos must be applied across all strings on the same fret of the instrument.
12. Competitors will be evaluated on their technique, musicianship, and overall presentation. Judges' comments and scores will not be made available to competitors.
13. The judges reserve the right to award the number of prizes that they believe is appropriate. The judges' decisions are final.
14. The top prize winners will be announced at the **Awards Ceremony** during intermission at the Saturday night concert on February 21, 2026, at 7:30 P.M., at the Pensacola State College Ashmore Fine Arts Auditorium, featuring the internationally acclaimed guitarist, and Grand Prize Winner of the 2024 Guitar Foundation of America's International Concert Artist Competition, Leonela Alejandro.
15. **All prize winners must be present during the Awards Ceremony to receive their prize.**

For more information, please contact Dr. Joe Stallings at [jstallings@pensacolastate.edu](mailto:jstallings@pensacolastate.edu).