

The 2026 TIAA Paul A. Samuelson Award Application

The TIAA Paul A. Samuelson Award recognizes outstanding scholarly writing on issues related to lifelong financial security. Named in honor of the Noble Laureate and former CREF Trustee, the award is given each year in recognition of an outstanding research publication containing ideas that the public and private sectors can use to maintain and improve Americans' financial well-being.

Entry eligibility

To be considered, an article or a book must be scholarly in nature, written in English, and published between June 30, 2024, and June 30, 2026. Individual papers in an edited volume are welcome. The collected papers in an edited volume, however, are not eligible as a submission.

The work must be either theoretical or empirical in nature and must cover a subject directly relevant to lifelong financial security, such as: retiree health care; retirement income; retirement plan design; insurance markets; the impact of tax and regulatory policies on savings, retirement, and insurance products; consumption needs and labor market activities over the lifecycle.

Nominations are invited from interested parties, including researchers and their colleagues, and should be submitted to the TIAA Institute by September 11, 2026.

Publications previously submitted and self-published articles and books will not be considered. In addition, publications authored by current employees and trustees of TIAA, judges of the award, or their close relatives will not be considered.

Announcement of the winner

The winner(s) will be announced late in 2026 and will be honored at a reception during the annual meeting of the Allied Social Science Associations in January 2027.

Judging criteria

1. Be an outstanding scholarly contribution that focuses on an issue related to lifelong financial security.
2. Be of practical use to the various stakeholders involved in maintaining and improving Americans' financial well-being. This could include households, employers, plan sponsors and administrators, financial service providers, and government.
3. Be a research publication. The work must be a published book or journal article.

How to enter

1. Complete the attached fill-in application form for each submission.
2. Enclose a 250 word abstract explaining the research question and main findings presented in the paper or book.
3. Enclose a 250 word statement on the main contributions of the research to advancing lifelong financial security, including how the research is practically relevant to the financial services industry.
4. If your submission is a published article, attach your article as a separate document along with the other entry materials in your email submission.

If your submission is a published book or monograph, send your application, abstract, and statement by email. Additionally, please ship six copies of your book or monograph by mail or air courier to:

TIAA Institute
c/o/ Andrew Gellert
730 3rd Ave
7th Floor
New York City, New York 10017

Send your entry by email to Andrew Gellert at andrew.gellert@tiaa.org. In the subject line write your last name and 2026 TIAA Samuelson Award Submission.

The TIAA Institute is not responsible for incomplete entries.

If you would like further information, please email Dr. Gellert.

Deadline

Applications for submissions must be received no later than September 11, 2026, 5:00 p.m. EDT. Mailed book submissions must also be postmarked no later than September 11, 2026.

Application for Submission

(See submission instructions on the reverse side of this page.)

Title of publication _____

Date of publication _____ Name of journal or publisher _____

Please check this box if you are making this submission on behalf of the author(s).

Name _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

Address _____

Place a check mark in the box next to the name of the submitting author.

Name of author _____

Current institutional affiliation _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

Name of author _____

Current institutional affiliation _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

Name of author _____

Current institutional affiliation _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

Name of author _____

Current institutional affiliation _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____