The deadline for Registration for the BlackRock Asset Allocation competition is **5:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 17.** See instructions below for how to register. Please read all of the instructions before registering as an existing team of three, or as a stand-alone competitor who would like to be placed in a team.

**Competition Description**

Imagine that you are a portfolio manager for an asset management firm that offers a range of investment funds for many different types of individuals and institutions. As a portfolio manager for one particular ‘class’ of funds, you are responsible for determining the allocation of different assets within your portfolio: that is, what percentage of the overall value of your fund is invested in each asset. Your goal is to meet or exceed a target rate of return goal for your portfolio, ideally with as low volatility (standard deviation of returns) as possible.

The Asset Allocation Competition is open to all Duke Sophomores, who will self-select into teams of three students (any combination of students in Econ 256 and those not in this class). You are encouraged to form teams that include at least one student who is taking Econ 256: Practical Financial Markets. It is not necessary for all team members to be enrolled in this class. Also, students who are neither Economics majors/minors nor Finance minors are warmly invited to participate.

Teams participating in the competition will be provided extensive guidelines, as well as access to the BlackRock Aladdin Factor Workbench platform, to facilitate the asset allocation process. Teams will be expected to create a presentation that summarizes your asset allocation decision. The creators of the ten best presentations will be invited to make brief presentations to a panel of BlackRock representatives.
Summary and Deadlines:

1. **The registration deadline is Saturday, October 17 at 5:00 p.m.** To register your team, please complete all of the fields in this form and click the Submit button.

   Students who would like to compete but have been unable to find a team are welcome to register as a single applicant, using this form. We will match up these "stand alone" students into teams of three.

2. On **Wednesday, October 14**, a visitor from BlackRock will give a visiting talk about the competition, and will be available to answer questions. This will be very valuable to teams working on the competition, as well as to everyone preparing for interviews in the financial markets. This talk is part of the Econ 256 class from 5:15 – 6:30 on this date. [Here is the link](#) for students not enrolled in Econ 256. Students *not* in Econ 256 are warmly invited to attend. If no one in your team is in Econ 256, you are strongly encouraged to ensure that at least one team member attends.

3. Extensive guidelines will be made available after the registration deadline. Please bear in mind that it would be a violation of the Duke Honor Code to receive any outside assistance on either a paid or unpaid basis from finance professionals or advisers.

4. The deadline for submitting a printout of your team's completed Presentation is **Friday, October 30 at 11:55 p.m.**

5. Ten teams selected to present to the BlackRock Panel will be notified on or before **Tuesday, November 3**, and will have until **Monday, November 9 at 12 p.m. (noon)** to edit their presentations based on feedback from the DFE team.

6. The selected teams will present to the Panel of BlackRock representatives during the afternoon on **Tuesday, November 10.**