The Graduate School

Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) Competition Guidelines

Purpose
Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) is a research communication competition developed by The University of Queensland (UQ). The exercise challenges graduate students to present a compelling oration on their thesis topic and its significance in just three minutes. 3MT® develops academic, presentation, and research communication skills and supports the development of research students’ capacity to effectively explain their research in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience. Held during Graduate Student Appreciation Week, this faculty-judged competition will recognize outstanding scholarship with multiple monetary prizes.

Who can participate in the Graduate Student Research and Project Showcase?
Any graduate student who is the primary author of a research project, original work, class paper, or class project may participate in the Three Minute Thesis Competition. Group presentations are not allowed. Students may compete in the 3MT® competition as well as Graduate Student Research Showcase.

Note: For the 3MT® competition, a graduate student is defined as an enrolled UL Lafayette graduate student in a degree-seeking graduate program.

When and Where?
The preliminary round of the 3MT® competition will take place in Moody Hall Room 103 on Tuesday, April 5, from 3-5pm and in Oliver Hall Room 112 on Wednesday, April 6, from 1-3pm. Students progressing to the final round will complete at the Research Showcase award ceremony to be held in Oliver Hall Room 112 on Friday, April 8 from 12:30-2pm.

General Rules and Guidelines
All students participating in the 3MT® competition agree to the rules and guidelines stated below. If the following guidelines are not adhered to without prior approval from the 3MT® competition Coordinator (Shawn Thibodeaux, Assistant to the Dean of the Graduate School, thibodeaux@louisiana.edu), a participant shall be disqualified from receiving an award. If you have questions about the rules and guidelines, contact Shawn Thibodeaux.

General Guidelines
• The Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) competition will be a University-wide competition and will not be divided into categories determined by academic field. Thus, students from all programs will compete against each other.
• Participants must arrive 20 minutes prior to their designated exhibition time to sign in and set up for the 3MT competition.
• All participants are required to be present for the entire duration of their assigned exhibition time. Exceptions to this rule are only granted in advance by the Showcase Coordinator.
Statement of Understanding
Students electing to participate in any of the three competitions assume and agree to the following statement of understanding:

As a participant in the 3MT® competition, I have read the Rules and Guidelines and agree to follow these.

3MT® Guidelines
- A single static PowerPoint slide is permitted. No slide transitions, animations or “movement” of any description are allowed. The slide is to be presented from the beginning of the oration.
- No additional electronic media (e.g. sound and video files) are permitted.
- No additional props (e.g. costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment) are permitted.
- Presentations are limited to 3 minutes maximum and competitors exceeding 3 minutes will be deducted points.
- Presentations are to be spoken word (e.g. no poems, raps, or songs).
- Presentations are to commence from the stage.
- Presentations are considered to have commenced when a presenter starts their presentation through either movement or speech.

Awards and Criteria for Judging
- All 3MT® participants will be judged by the same scoring criteria, regardless of academic discipline.
- All judges’ scores and decisions are final.
- Awards will be given to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place participants at a reception event to be held Friday, April 18, 2016 from 12:30-2pm in Oliver Hall Room 112.
- Participants that receive less than 60% of the possible score are ineligible for an award.