

The Graduate School

Graduate Student Research and Project Showcase Guidelines



Purpose

With the Graduate Student Research and Project Showcase, the Graduate School seeks to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions of graduate students to the UL Lafayette scholarly community by providing graduate students the opportunity to showcase their research, projects, and original works. Held during **Graduate Student Appreciation Week**, this faculty-judged Showcase 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 **poster or paper competition** for the Graduate Student Research and Project Showcase. Any **group of graduate students** may also register their research project, original work, class paper, or class project to participate in the poster competition. Students may only enter in one competition either as an individual or as a group. You are encouraged to submit your best work, no matter the format.

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

When and Where?

The Research and Project Showcase will be held over three days in Dupré Library. Posters will be displayed throughout the week, but the Poster competition will take place from 2-4pm on both Wednesday, March 29, and Thursday, March 30, in the Dupré Library 1st floor corridor.

Rules and Guidelines

All students participating in the Graduate Student Research and Project Showcase agree to the rules and guidelines stated below. If the following guidelines are not adhered to without prior approval from the Research and Project Showcase Coordinator (Philip de Mahy, Assistant Dean of the Graduate School, philip.demahy@louisiana.edu), a participant shall be disqualified from receiving an award. If you have questions about the rules and guidelines, contact Philip de Mahy.

General Guidelines

- The poster and paper competitions will each be divided into three disciplinary categories defined as **STEM, Humanities, and Professional** to ensure that students compete with other students within like academic fields.
- Participants must arrive 20 minutes prior to their designated time to sign in and set up for the poster competition.
- All participants are required to be present for the entire time of their assigned exhibition time to answer any questions for judges and visitors. Exceptions to this rule are only granted in advance by the Showcase Coordinator.
- If registering as part of a group project for the poster competition, at least one group member is required to be present during the entire presentation time to answer any questions for judges and visitors, though all group members are encouraged to be present.

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 Graduate Student Research and Project Showcase, I have read the Rules and Guidelines and agree to follow these.

Poster Guidelines

- All posters must include the participant's name and title of the project or research topic.
- All posters should include basic elements, or their equivalent format for your discipline, like an abstract, introduction, objective, approach, results, and discussion/conclusions.

- Poster dimensions, as often as possible, should not exceed 4 feet in height by 3 feet in length to accommodate poster easels. Smaller posters or segmented (pieced posters) are acceptable, given that the segmented posters take up no more than the allotted space mentioned above. You are not required to fill up the entire available space. Exceptions to poster size must be approved by the Showcase Coordinator.
- Posters should be mounted on foam board or other sturdy backing so that it can easily stand on a tripod easel. The tripod easel *will* be provided while foam boards *are not typically* provided.
- Posters should not have attachments that pose a hazard to viewers, should not interfere with passersby, and should not include handouts.

Paper Guidelines

- Papers must be submitted no later than **Tuesday, March 21, 2022** via submission form through the Graduate School website. Students can access that submission form by [clicking here](#).
- Papers will be judged according to originality, contribution to the field of study, argumentation, organization, and writing style.
- Paper length should not exceed 25 pages inclusive of any notes when possible, with bibliographies present when applicable.
- Students should write and organize their papers according to their discipline's preferred style manual or leading journal. No one style is required of submissions.
- All papers must come with a cover letter stating the student's name, program of study, and thesis/dissertation director (if applicable), and must be identified as a paper submission for the Graduate Student Research and Project Showcase.
- Page numbers are encouraged on all entries but student names should be suppressed throughout the paper, except on the cover page, to promote a blind reading.

Awards and Criteria for Judging

- All poster participants will be judged by the same scoring criteria, regardless of category.
- All paper submissions will be judged by the same scoring criteria favoring writing style, clarity, and argumentation.
- All judges' scores and decisions are final.
- Should a group project receive an award, the group participants will receive an equal portion of the award money.
- Submissions that receive less than 60% of the possible score are ineligible for an award.