

# The Graduate School

## Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) Competition Guidelines

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UNIVERSITY  
OF  
LOUISIANA  
L a f a y e t t e.

### 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.

This faculty-judged competition will recognize outstanding scholarship. The overall winner will advance to the regional competition in February 2019, in Knoxville Tennessee at the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools.



### 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.

*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 rounds of the 3MT® competition will take place in **on Wednesday, November 7 from 12-2 PM** and **on Thursday, November 8 from 2-4 PM**. Students progressing to the final round will compete on **Friday, November 9 from 1-3 PM**. One overall winner will advance to the regional competition in February 2019, in Knoxville Tennessee at the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools.

### 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 (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 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 competition Coordinator.
- Winners from the previous semester may still compete if their research and presentations are substantially different.

### Statement of Understanding

Students electing to participate in the competition 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, though participants are not required to use a slide. 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.
- Questions may be asked by the audience following all presentations during each competition day. No questions may be asked following each individual presentation.

### **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.
- Prizes will be awarded following the 3MT® finals on Friday, November 9, 2018.
- Participants that receive less than 60% of the possible score are ineligible for an award.