

# 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 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.

*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 remotely via zoom](#) on Wednesday, November 11, beginning at 12 pm, and on Thursday, November 12, beginning at 2 pm. Following the prelims, finalists will move on to a second round of virtual competitions on Thursday, December 17th beginning at 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 (Dr. Philip de Mahy, Assistant Dean of the Graduate School philip.demahy@louisiana.edu), a participant shall be disqualified from receiving an award. All questions about the rules and guidelines can be directed to him.

#### 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

- Presentations are limited to 3 minutes and competitors exceeding 3 minutes are disqualified.
- Presentations are considered to have commenced when a presenter starts their presentation through speech (timing does not include the 3MT title slide and commences from when the competitor starts speaking, not the start of the video).

- Videos must meet the following criteria:
  - Filmed on the horizontal;
  - Filmed on a plain background;
  - Filmed from a static position;
  - Filmed from one camera angle;
  - Contain a 3MT PowerPoint slide
- A single static slide is permitted in the presentation (no slide transitions, animations or 'movement' of any description). This can be visible continuously, or 'cut to' (as many times as you like) for a maximum of 1 minute or submitted via email if not included in the presentation.
- The 3 minute audio must be continuous – no sound edits or breaks.
- No additional props (e.g. costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment and animated backgrounds) are permitted within the recording.
- Presentations are to be spoken word (e.g. no poems, raps or songs).
- No additional electronic media (e.g. sound and video files) are permitted within the video recording.
- The decision of the adjudicating panel is final.

**Please note:** competitors \*will not\* be judged on video/ recording quality or editing capabilities (optional inclusions). Judging will focus on the presentation, ability to communicate research to a non-specialist audience, and 3MT PowerPoint slide.

**Please note:** After each competition round competitors have the option to either submit their current presentation or rerecord and submit a new presentation for entry into the next round.

### **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.
- Participants that receive less than 60% of the possible score are ineligible for an award.