

# The Graduate School

## Graduate Student Research and Project Showcase Guidelines

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### 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 with 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 monetary prizes.

### Who?

Any UL Lafayette **graduate student** enrolled in a degree-seeking graduate program 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 degree-seeking graduate students** may also register their research project, original work, class paper, or class project in the poster or paper competition. Any student may enter both competitions, but only one submission per student is allowed in each competition. Students are encouraged to submit their best work, no matter the format.

### When & Where?

The Showcase will take place over two days in Dupré Library. The paper competition will be conducted entirely online, with submissions accepted digitally. The poster presentation competition will be held in person from 2:00–3:30 PM on Wednesday, April 9, and Thursday, April 10, in the first-floor corridor of the library. Posters will remain on display throughout the week.

### Rules and Guidelines

All students participating in the Graduate Student Research and Project Showcase agree to the guidelines stated below. Failure to adhere to the guidelines without prior approval from the Research Showcase Coordinator (Dr. Jamie Benner, Academic & Manuscript Coordinator for the Graduate School, [jamie.benner@louisiana.edu](mailto:jamie.benner@louisiana.edu)) will lead to disqualification from the competition.

#### General Guidelines

- The poster and paper competitions will each be divided into **two categories** defined as **Foundational, Theoretical, and Humanistic Research** and **Applied and Translational Research**. Participants should select the category that best fits their entry.
  - **Foundational, Theoretical, and Humanistic Research** includes research that advances fundamental knowledge, develops new theories, or explores humanistic, social, or cultural perspectives. It also encompasses creative works in the arts, design, and literature, where originality, interpretation, or artistic expression is central to scholarly contribution.
  - **Applied and Translational Research** includes research that applies existing knowledge to solve specific problems, develop new technologies, inform policy and practice, or improve professional or industry processes. Projects in this category emphasize real-world impact, innovation, and the translation of research into applied solutions in fields such as engineering, healthcare, business, and public policy.
- The deadline to enter is **Tuesday, April 1** via submission form through the Graduate School website.

#### Poster Competition 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 Research 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.
- 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.
- Students will have 5-10 minutes to present their research poster, after which judges or viewers can ask questions.

#### Paper Competition Guidelines

- Papers must be submitted no later than **Tuesday, April 1** via submission form through the Graduate School website.
- Papers will be judged according to clarity and organization, originality and innovation, research and argumentation, significance and impact, and presentation and writing quality.
- 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.