The Graduate School

Graduate Student Research and Creative Works Showcase

Purpose

The **Graduate Student Research and Creative Works Showcase** celebrates the contributions of graduate students to the UL Lafayette scholarly community by providing students with the opportunity to showcase their research, writing, and original works. Held during **Graduate Student Appreciation Week**, this faculty-judged Showcase recognizes outstanding scholarship with monetary prizes.

Who

Any UL Lafayette **graduate student** enrolled in a degree-seeking program may participate in the competition as the **primary author** of a research project, original work, class paper, or class project. The competition includes **three options**: **poster, paper, or video**. Each student may pick only one option. A group of degree-seeking graduate students may also submit collaborative work. Students are encouraged to submit their strongest work, regardless of format.

When and Where

Judging for the Research Showcase will take place over two days. The poster option will be held in person from 2:00–3:30 PM on Wednesday, March 25, and Thursday, March 26. Paper and video submissions will be accepted and reviewed digitally. Competition results will be announced on Friday, March 27 at the Louisiana Impact Research Summit.

Rules and Guidelines

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

General Guidelines

- The poster and paper options will be subdivided into **two categories**, based on research approach, defined as:
    - **Empirical & Data-Driven Inquiry** - Research grounded in systematic data collection and analysis, including quantitative, experimental, clinical, computational, or mixed-method approaches. Ask yourself: Is the primary claim supported through systematic data collection and measurable evidence?
    - **Interpretive, Creative & Conceptual Scholarship** - Research grounded in theoretical analysis, humanistic interpretation, design inquiry, creative practice, policy argumentation, or conceptual innovation. Ask yourself: Is the primary claim advanced through interpretation, theory, design, argument, or creative synthesis?
- The video competition option, inspired by 3MT®, aims to support the development of research students' capacity to effectively explain their research in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience.
- The deadline to enter is **Tuesday, March 17** via submission form on the Graduate Student Appreciation Week page.

Guidelines for Poster Option

- All posters must include the participant's name and title of the project. Posters should also include basic elements for your discipline (e.g., an abstract, introduction, methods, results, and discussion/conclusions).
- Poster dimensions should not exceed 4' by 3' to accommodate poster easels. Smaller posters and segmented/multi-piece posters are acceptable, if the segmented poster takes up no more than the allotted space mentioned above. Exceptions to poster size must be approved by the Showcase Coordinator.
- Posters must be mounted on foam board or other sturdy backing to easily stand on a tripod easel. The tripod **easels will be provided** while **foam boards will not** be provided.
- Posters should not have attachments that pose a hazard to viewers, should not interfere with passersby, and should not include handouts.

- Participants should arrive 20 minutes prior to their assigned time to set up for the in-person poster presentation.
- All participants are required to be present for the duration of their assigned 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 for the entire presentation time, though all group members are encouraged to be present.
- Students have 5-10 minutes to present their research poster, after which judges or viewers can ask questions.

Guidelines for Paper Option
- Papers must be submitted no later than **Tuesday, March 17** via submission form on the Graduate Student Appreciation Week page.
- Papers should not exceed 25 double-spaced pages inclusive of notes, 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.
- All papers **must** come with a cover letter stating the student's name and program, and must be identified as a paper submission for the Graduate Student Research and Creative Works Showcase.
- Page numbers are encouraged on all entries, but student names should be suppressed in the body of the paper, except on the cover page, to promote a blind reading.
- Papers will be judged on clarity, organization, originality, research, argumentation, impact, and quality of writing.

Guidelines for Video Option
- Videos must be submitted no later than **Tuesday, March 17** via submission form on the Graduate Student Appreciation Week page.
- Video submissions should highlight the significance, value, and excitement of your research, scholarship, or creative work in a format accessible to a broad audience.
- Videos should be filmed horizontally from a static position and should include a single static PowerPoint presentation slide present from the beginning of the oration.
- The video presentation should be no more than three minutes in length, with up to 30 additional seconds for acknowledgments.
- Videos should be uploaded directly as attachments with a maximum file size of 1 MB, and all files must be .MOV or .MP4.
- By entering the contest, participants consent to have their videos shared in full on the Graduate School website and associated social media pages.
- Evaluation criteria include originality, clarity of research aims and methods, coherence of message, and overall communication and professionalism.

Awards and Criteria for Judging
- Judges will score assigned submissions using option-specific rubrics.
- All judges' scores and decisions are final.
- Participants should not expect individualized feedback on submissions from judges.
- 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.