

## Graduate Student Research and Project Showcase

### Purpose

The Graduate Student Research and Project Showcase strives to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions of graduate students to the UL Lafayette and academic communities by providing graduate students the opportunity to showcase their research, projects, and original works during Graduate Student Appreciation Week events. The judged Graduate Student Research and Project Showcase will honor outstanding students with awards.

### 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 register to participate in the **poster, presentation, 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 or presentation competition. Any graduate student who registers as an individual AND as part of a group must submit two unique projects. Students may only enter in one of the three events and are encouraged to submit their best work, no matter the format.

*Note: For the Graduate Student Research and Project Showcase, a graduate student is defined as a UL Lafayette graduate student who is currently enrolled in a degree-seeking graduate program.*

### Rules and Guidelines

All students participating in the Graduate Student Research and Project Showcase agree to the following rules and guidelines. If the following rules and guidelines are not adhered to without prior approval of the Research and Project Showcase Coordinator, a student participant faces disqualification from receiving awards. If you have questions about the rules and guidelines, email Shawn Thibodeaux at [thibodeaux@louisiana.edu](mailto:thibodeaux@louisiana.edu).

- The poster, presentation, and paper competition will each be divided into three disciplinary categories defined as **STEM, Humanities, and Professional** to ensure that students can compete with other students within their own academic field.
- Attire is a minimum of business casual for all student participants.
- All participants must arrive 20 minutes prior to their designated time to sign in and set up.
- The Research and Project Showcase will be held in Dupré Library in the first floor main hallway and the first floor bibliographic lab on Tuesday, April 8, 2014.
- All participants are required to be present for the entire time of their assigned one-hour judging 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, at least one group member is required to be present during the entire showcase to answer any questions for judges and visitors, though all group members are encouraged to be present.

### 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 cannot exceed 4 feet in height by 3 feet in length. 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.
- 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; 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.
- There are several stores and resources in the area that can assist in printing your poster.

### Presentation Guidelines

- Presenters will be allowed 10 minutes for presentation and 4 minutes for questions and answers from the judges. There will be a 3-minute transition between presenters. This time-frame will be strictly followed. Timekeepers will be present during presentations to ensure that time regulations are followed.
- All presentations should include basic elements, or their equivalent format for your discipline, like an introduction, objective, approach, results, and discussion/conclusions.
- Audio-visual equipment will be available for power point presentations; however, presentation aids are not required.

### Paper Guidelines

- Papers should be submitted no later than Friday, March 28, 2014, with attention to Shawn Thibodeaux, Assistant to the Dean of the Graduate School, via email at [thibodeaux@louisiana.edu](mailto:thibodeaux@louisiana.edu) or in person in Martin Hall, room 332.
- Papers will be judged according to their originality, contribution to each student's field, argumentation, organization, and writing style.
- Papers should be at least 15 pages but should not exceed 30.
- Students should write and organize their papers according to their field's preferred style manual or leading journal. No one style is required of submissions.
- All papers should include bibliographies when applicable.
- 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 2014 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.

### 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.

### **Awards and Scoring**

- All poster and presentation participants will be judged by the same scoring criteria.
- All paper submissions will be judged by separate scoring criteria favoring writing style, clarity, and argumentation.
- All judges' scores and decisions are final in regards to the competition.
- **Awards will be given within in each of the three disciplinary categories—STEM, Humanities, and Professional—at a reception event to be held Friday, April 12, 2014 in the Ernest Gaines Center.**
- Should a group project receive an award, the group participants will receive an equal portion of the award money.
- If a participant scores less than 60% of the possible score, they will not be eligible for an award.