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**Call for Abstracts:**

**3 Minute Research Presentation (3MRP) Competition**

**ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2021 at 11:59 pm**

Students from all graduate academic programs and from all campuses including from the Phoenix Biomedical Campus, NAU Online, and statewide campuses are encouraged to participate; all aspects of the 2021 3MRP Competition will be held virtually, via Zoom.

**Purpose**

The Graduate College, in collaboration with the Office of the Provost, the Office of the Vice President for Research, Cline Library, and the academic colleges, is hosting the annual 3-Minute Research Presentation (3MRP) Competition. The 3MRP Competition provides an opportunity for NAU graduate students to present their thesis, dissertation, capstone research, scholarship, and/or creative work to an intelligent, non-specialist audience in just three minutes. This professional development opportunity is designed to increase and improve graduate students’ communication skills as well as their capacity to effectively present research, scholarship, or creative work.

**Background**

The 3MRP project draws heavily from the [Three Minute Thesis (3MT®)](http://threeminutethesis.org/) presentation, which was first developed by the University of Queensland in 2008. This form of research communication is aimed at "developing academic, presentation, and research communication skills and supports the development of research students' capacity to effectively explain their research in three minutes in a language appropriate to an intelligent but non-specialist audience."

3MRP Competition students may present research or scholarly work that they are conducting for a thesis, dissertation, creative work, or non-thesis research capstone project that they are working on while pursuing their master’s or doctoral degree at NAU.

For presentation examples, visit the NAU [3MRP webpage](https://nau.edu/graduate-college/3-minute-research-presentation/), which provides links to excellent presentations made by students from different disciplines as well as other resources. You may also view presentations from the 2019 preliminary heats and final presentations on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbQ9jexnahuTLb1faE7KPGw) and hear previous 3MRP competitors talk about their [3MRP experience](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y4wL7C0Lf3Y&feature=youtu.be).

**Participant Timeline (Please email any questions about the Participant Timeline to** [**3MRP@nau.edu**](mailto:3MRP@nau.edu)**)**

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| **By February 2 at 11:59 pm** | Submit your abstract using the [Abstract Submission Form](https://forms.gle/Y9uQ1VePU3sByuD97). |
| **February 3 by 5:00pm** | Applicants notified of abstract acceptance via students’ NAU email. |
| **February 8 (9:00-10:00)** *or* **February 9 (4:00-5:00)** | Presenters attend 1 required information session of 1 hour via Zoom (Zoom link to be provided). All details about and training for the event are covered in the information session. |
| **February 9-February 17** | Prepare for the practice sessions - Suggested preparation:  • Review Judging Criteria, Rules, Evaluation Form, and Additional Resources  • Meet with Cline [Research Librarian](https://nau.edu/library/contact-your-subject-librarian/) to discuss research and presentation  • Create practice session 3MRP slide  • Practice 3MRP Presentation |
| **By February 10 at 11:59 pm** | Sign up for a practice session (sign-up information to be provided) |
| **By February 14 at 11:59 pm** | Submit *practice session* 3MRP slide to [3MRP@nau.edu](mailto:3MRP@nau.edu) |
| **February 18 (8:30-5:00)**  ***or***  **February 19 (8:30-5:00)** | Attend one 30-minute practice session via Zoom (Zoom link to be provided):  • Practice 3MRP Presentation  • Record your presentation using your own computer  • Solicit feedback on presentation and slide |
| **February 18-March 5** | Prepare for the preliminary heats - Suggested preparation:  • Practice 3MRP Presentation  • Solicit feedback from peers  • Edit slide |
| **By February 25 at 11:59 pm** | Sign up for a preliminary heat (sign-up information to be provided) |
| **By February 25 at 11:59 pm** | Submit *preliminary heat* 3MRP slide to [3MRP@nau.edu](mailto:3MRP@nau.edu) |
| **March 5 *or* March 9** | Preliminary heats (15-minute increments) via Zoom (Zoom link to be provided) |
| **March 10** **by 5:00 pm** | Notification of finalists to students’ NAU email |
| **March 10-25** | Prepare for the finals - Suggested preparation for finalists:  • Meet with Graduate College staff for feedback on presentation and slide  • Practice finalized 3MRP Presentation  • Solicit feedback from peers  • Edit slide |
| **By March 16 at 11:59 pm** | Finalists - submit bio, headshot, and *finals* 3MRP slide to [3MRP@nau.edu](mailto:3MRP@nau.edu) |
| **Thursday, March 25 from 3:30-5:00 pm** | Final 3MRP Presentations via Zoom (other students, finalists' guests, faculty members and administrators, and community members are all invited to attend streaming on Facebook Live; details will be available on our [3MRP webpage](https://nau.edu/graduate-college/3-minute-research-presentation/) by March 1). |
| **April 20, 3:00-5:00 pm** | 3MRP Winners recognized at the virtual Graduate College Awards Ceremony |

**Presentation Information**

The vast majority of abstracts are accepted, and all students are encouraged to participate in the practice sessions, regardless of their intent to compete. Students will present their research/creative work and its significance face-to-face and compete in heats before advancing to the finals. Students currently enrolled in an online/statewide program who are actively conducting research as part of their degree and who wish to participate should submit an abstract.

The preliminary heats are scheduled for **March 5th** and **9th** via Zoom.

The finalists will present their three-minute presentation live via Zoom on **Thursday, March 25, 2021 from 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm**. Prizes will be awarded for the top three winners. Finalists will receive additional information about presenting in the finals. Guests will be able to view the Finals Competition streaming via Facebook Live.

The Graduate College will host information (and training) sessions and practice sessions in preparation for these presentations during the month of February (see timeline above). These presentations will be open to all graduate students, and students whose abstracts are accepted to participate in this competition will be required to attend these information and practice sessions.

**Abstract Guidelines**

Students who are interested in participating should submit their abstract using the [Abstract Submission Form](https://forms.gle/Y9uQ1VePU3sByuD97). The form requires a brief abstract of 100-500words that describes the research or creative work and its significance for a general academic audience of non-specialists.

**Student Eligibility**

* The competition is open to master’s and doctoral students in [good academic standing](https://www5.nau.edu/policies/Client/Details/520?whoIsLooking=Students&pertainsTo=Graduate%20students&sortDirection=Ascending&page=1) who have made substantial progress on research and analysis or creative work related to their academic program. Students from all academic programs are encouraged to participate.
* Presentations must be based on research directly related to the student’s thesis, dissertation, creative work, current research capstone project, or other coursework. Research related to past or current employment will not be accepted.
* Students do not need to have complete data analysis or be "defense ready" on their capstone, thesis, or dissertation work to participate in the 3MRP Competition. However, we are looking for students who have made progress on their project, research, creative work, etc. and can prepare a presentation that addresses scope, significance, and impact of their work. Presenting preliminary data, pilot study data, and preliminary results is fine; results do not necessarily need to be conclusive.
* Students must be enrolled at the time of entry but may still compete if they defended and submitted their final thesis or dissertation prior to the conclusion of the competition in March, 2021.
* **Students must not have graduated prior to March 1, 2021.**
* Participants from previous 3MRP events are eligible to participate.
* All competitors must commit to attending one information session and one practice session (see timeline above).
* All competitors will be required to agree to be recorded and to media exposure for their presentation and research.

**Application/Abstract Submission**

Abstracts must be submitted electronically by using the [Abstract Submission Form](https://forms.gle/Y9uQ1VePU3sByuD97) by **Tuesday, February 2 by 11:59 pm**.

**Abstract Review**

The following criteria will be used to evaluate abstracts:

1. Clarity of the project’s focus (What is the purpose of the project?)
2. Significance of the research or creative activity (Why is this project important?)
3. Impact of the research or creative activity (What application does this project have?)

**Questions regarding 3MRP?**

**Email us at:** [**3MRP@nau.edu**](mailto:3MRP@nau.edu)

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