

Graduate College

2022 Poster Symposium Competition and Conference Frequently Asked Questions

What is different in this year's Poster Symposium?

The event will consist of two parts.

Part 1: Poster Symposium (evaluation of posters submitted electronically) that will be judged prior to March 31st, in-person event, on the NAU Flagstaff campus. This event allows participants to showcase their research and answer questions from individuals from various disciplines.

Part 2: An optional Conference (where the participants can present their posters) held on April 9th, online, via Zoom.

How will the prize money be disbursed?

As with most financial aid, awards, and scholarships at NAU, the prize money will be transferred to your Louie account after the event. If you will be graduating in spring 2021, prize money will be used to pay off your outstanding balance in Louie and then released to you after your balance in Louie is \$0. Please contact Financial Aid for more details.

Can I just participate in the Competition and not the Conference?

Absolutely. If you only want to participate in the competition and not present your poster via Zoom on April 9th, you can do that.

Can I just participate in the Conference and not the Symposium?

Unfortunately, this is not possible since the main event is the Poster Symposium Competition; the Conference is an additional opportunity for those who compete.

What is the difference between the Conference and the Symposium?

The in-person interactive symposium is being held to showcase all of the participants' research and to provide the opportunity of having real-time questions asked to you. This is geared to help you better explain your research to individuals from your own and other disciplines. Posters will be displayed on easels. The conference consists of a panel of judges listening to a 7-minute pre-planned presentation by the participants on their research followed with time for questions derived from the presentation material.

What format will the Conference be held in?

The Conference will be hosted on **Zoom**. The participants will be placed in sessions with 5-6 other presenters and will compete only against the presenters in that session. There will be one winner per session. Session winner prizes are in the amount of \$100.

Do I have to memorize or rehearse my presentation?

It is not required that your presentation be memorized; however, we recommend that you rehearse it since it will have to fit within the allotted 7 minutes. Please also be prepared for 3 minutes of Q&A.

What visual aids will I need to provide for my presentation on April 9th?

You are welcome to use your poster as a reference during your talk.

Can I make changes to my poster after submitting it but before I present it?

We encourage you to not change your poster after you submitted it for evaluation as this may cause confusion among the judges. However, you are welcome to add new findings to your presentation if you make progress in your research project after you submit your poster.

What are the requirements for the poster formatting?

Posters should be no larger than 36 inches x 46 inches.

Poster templates are available here: <https://nau.edu/undergraduate-research/poster-presentation-information>

What are the resources I can use to print my poster to be displayed at the Symposium?

You may print your poster at any specialized printing place such as Staples, Office Depot, etc. NAU is offering printing services as well - for more information, please see <https://in.nau.edu/printing-services>

What if I submitted my poster but can't make it to the Symposium in person?

Due to logistical constraints, the GSG is **unable** to display posters for students who are not attending the in-person event. It is our sincere hope that we will be able to have this opportunity reopen for next year's event.

What makes a good poster?

We suggest that you consult with your co-authors and faculty advisor when working on and finalizing your poster. Generally, the characteristics of a good poster are the following:

- The important/ highlighted information should be readable from 10 feet away
- The title is short and draws in interest
- There are between 300-800 words on the poster (less is usually better)
- There are headlines, bullet points, graphs, and other visuals to make the poster easy to read and follow by the audience
- All the authors names, institutional affiliation, and acknowledgements are included