

GUIDELINES FOR THE 15TH ANNUAL GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM Mississippi State University

The Graduate Student Association (GSA), in collaboration with the Office of the Graduate School (OGS), is proud to carry on the tradition of providing students the opportunity to showcase their research accomplishments on the MSU campus by sponsoring the 15th annual Graduate Student Research Symposium (GSRS). This year the GSRS will be held on Saturday, March 25th, 2017, in classrooms and lobby of Allen Hall.

ABOUT THE GSRS

The Graduate Student Research Symposium (GSRS) is an interdisciplinary forum comprised of a series of oral and poster presentations by graduate students from across the MSU campus. The GSRS showcases the outstanding quality and diversity of graduate-level research at MSU. GSRS serves as an opportunity for graduate students to gain experience giving presentations and to receive meaningful feedback from an evaluative panel of established MSU faculty members and researchers in a conference-style venue. Each year, paper and poster presentations are divided into categories according to the research disciplines of the participants. Judges are selected from MSU faculty and research professional volunteers who represent a wide variety of disciplines. Students receiving the highest score in each category of both the oral and poster presentations receive monetary awards and are recognized during the Annual Graduate Student Awards Banquet that is scheduled prior to the end of the spring semester.

PURPOSE OF THE GSRS

The symposium, which is open to the entire Mississippi State University community, provides graduate students an opportunity to present their research to a broad and diverse audience, helping them develop the ability to communicate in a manner that is understood/appreciated by non-specialists and a general audience. The event also provides students with the opportunity to learn about the ongoing research outside of their specific disciplines being conducted by their peers at MSU. The GSRS provides a unique forum for interaction among students and faculty across the university and motivates students to share their experiences with other graduate students.

ELIGIBILITY

GSRS presenters must be registered, full-time MSU graduate students engaged in research or thesis work and in good academic standing at the time of abstract submission. **There is no cost to participate.**

REGISTRATION

MSU graduate students who would like to present at the 15th Annual GSRS should complete the appropriate application (found on the Graduate Student Association website) and email the completed application as an attachment to GSA@grad.msstate.edu. THE REGISTRATION/ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS MARCH 10TH at 11:59 pm. **Indicate in the subject line of your email whether you are participating with an oral presentation or a poster presentation. A graduate student cannot participate in both sessions.** The schedule of abstracts will be posted on the Office of the Graduate School website on Friday, March 24th.

FORMAT AND SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACT

Abstracts must be no longer than 250 words and contain within the text the following information: objective; methods; and key findings/conclusions to date. **Abstracts containing more than 250 words will not be accepted.** Use of standard abbreviations is desirable. Place special or unusual abbreviations in parentheses after the full term, the first time it appears. **No tables or figures may be included in the abstract.**

JUDGING CRITERIA

Entries in each category will be evaluated on style, clarity, professionalism, originality, relevance, contribution to the discipline, and overall presentation. Multiple-authored entries are acceptable; however, the presenter must be lead author to compete for the monetary awards. It is important to bear in mind that the GSRS is interdisciplinary and presentations may be judged by faculty from areas outside one's own discipline.

ORAL PRESENTATION SESSION

Presentation participants will have 8-10 minutes to present their submission, with approximately 3 minutes reserved at the end of the session for questions from the judges. Presentations may take the form of video, PowerPoint, or an alternative form of media if approved by the GSA ahead of time. Presentations are scheduled for Saturday, March 25th, 2017, from 9:30am - 3:00 pm in the classrooms of Allen Hall. Presenters must be present at the designated time to be eligible to receive an award.

POSTER PRESENTATION SESSION

Posters should not exceed 40" (w) by 40" (h) in dimension. The Poster presentation will be held in the Allen Hall Lobby, Saturday, March 25th, 2017, from 9:30 am - 12:00 pm. Presenters should bring any supplies needed to set up posters. Easels and foam backboards will be provided for the posters. Any poster not removed after the session will be held for one week in the GSA Office and then discarded. Presenters must be present at the designated time to answer questions during the Poster presentation in order to be eligible to receive an award.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions may be directed to the Graduate Student Association (www.grad.msstate.edu/current/orgs/gsa/); the GSA email at GSA@grad.msstate.edu; GSA President, Mercedes Siegle-Gaither at ms3641@msstate.edu; Vice President, Jason Morris at jcm995@msstate.edu; or Secretary, Erika Niemann at emn118@msstate.edu.