

## **College of Health and Human Services Graduate Student Research Poster Competition**

Research may be defined as an in-depth systematic investigation into a subject that requires gathering data, information and facts in an effort to advance knowledge within a discipline. Graduate research provides a student with unique opportunity to follow their interest in an area of research. Additionally, graduate research increases a student's innovation, organization, communication, critical thinking, time and project management and problem-solving skills. Such skills are transferable skills and are often in high demand by employers.

In addition to graduate thesis studies, class-based research projects such as term papers, service-learning, community or campus based activities, capstone classes or outside class collaborations of faculty/students such as independent study or summer research activities may create excellent graduate student research submissions. Furthermore, with advanced thought and preparation, class-based activities such as qualitative or quantitative writing assignments can provide outstanding graduate student research opportunities for this competition. The College of Health and Human Services Graduate Student Poster Research Competition is an effort to illustrate the significance of research in postsecondary education as well as to acknowledge the various areas of research unique to different disciplines of study.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Graduate Student Research competition is to encourage students to:

1. Engage in high quality, sound, and original research.
2. Increase their comprehension of a particular topic in their field of study.
3. Strengthen their comprehension of research and research methods.
4. Develop effective writing communication skills for the dissemination of research information.
5. Become creative and self-reliant lifelong consumers of the knowledge.

### **Eligibility**

Any undergraduate student in good standing who is majoring, online and on the Troy campus, in the Departments or School within the College of Health and Human Services is eligible to enter the undergraduate student research competition. The competition will include research paper and clinical case studies.

### **Categories of Research Areas in the College of Health and Human Services**

Athletic Training	Coaching	Health Promotion	Human Services	Kinesiology
Nursing	Rehabilitation	Social Work	Sport Management	

### **Subject of Presentation**

The subject of presentation may be accomplished through two means: 1) any basic or applied original research or clinical case study paper or 2) poster presentation of a research or case study.

## **Poster Presentation of a Research or Case Study**

The student may choose to present their research on a poster. Students will submit posters from 2012-2013 in an electronic PowerPoint poster format. However, students should note that due to the cost that may be incurred to print a poster, a poster template may be found at [http://www.makesigns.com/SciPosters\\_Templates.aspx](http://www.makesigns.com/SciPosters_Templates.aspx).

## **Submission Information**

### **Abstract/Summary**

To enter the competition, students must submit an abstract/summary (found on the application) not to exceed 200 words describing the research or research intent. All submissions must be in 12 point, Times New Roman font, including the title, and be single-spaced.

The abstract for a research submission should provide clear and concise information focusing on the research findings and conclusions. A summary for a case study should be a concise analysis reflecting the events that occurred during the investigation. Both research abstracts and case study summaries should be carefully prepared and proofread to avoid mistakes.

Titles should contain no more than 12 words.

The name of the major research advisor must be listed on the abstract. Use formal titles for all major research advisor information, such as Dr. John Doe, not simply John Doe. The major research advisor is not required to be a research methods instructor. Rather the major research advisor may be a College of Health and Human Services faculty member with expertise in the field.

All entrants must submit an application (including abstract/summary) and poster presentation simultaneously to Dr. John Miller, Associate Dean of the College of Health and Human Services by **April 18, 2013 at midnight (CST)**.

### **Judging**

All student submissions will be judged based on relevance or significance of the topic; theoretical or conceptual framework of the study; methodology/synthesis; discussion and interpretation; and clarity of writing. Faculty members will be needed to assist, as volunteers, to judge the competition papers and posters. Major research advisors of a student entry will not be allowed to function as judges. The final cumulative score of the judges will indicate the placement of the submitted research project. Judging will take place between April 19 and April 25, 2013. The judges' decision will be final. Announcement of the results will occur on **April 26, 2013**.

All participants will receive a "Certificate of Participation."

## **Poster Recommendations**

### **Poster Fonts:**

1. Arial or Times New Roman are the recommended fonts for readability and compliance with the Troy University Research Guidelines
2. 72 point or larger for poster titles
3. 36-54 point for section titles
4. 24-30 point for body text (at least 20 point is recommended)
5. Font sizes may vary depending on the viewing distance and amount of text to be included.

### **Graphics:**

1. Avoid using small graphics downloaded from the web. They typically have very low resolution and are not scalable for poster printing.
2. Scan images at high resolution and reduce it later if necessary.
3. Be sure photos have good contrast and brightness for printing. Test on your home color printer to verify.

### **Background:**

1. Avoid using busy patterns or images as the background, because they make text difficult to read.
2. Plain backgrounds with contrasting text will make your text easier to read.
3. Avoid using heavy solid color backgrounds because extensive ink saturation will give your paper a wavy appearance.