29th Annual Virtual Student Symposium on Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities

WHO MAY APPLY

Currently enrolled Cal State LA undergraduate or graduate students, as well as recent graduates who received their degrees the previous year’s spring, summer, or fall term are eligible. Each participant is limited to one presentation as the lead presenter. The Symposium is open to students from all majors, and to both undergraduate and graduate students. Proprietary research is excluded. Presentations from all disciplines are invited. The steering committee reserves the right to combine or subdivide these categories, move an entrant from one category to another, or move a presentation to a poster session as the numbers of submissions necessitate. The nine categories are as follows:

- Behavioral and Social Sciences
- Biological and Agricultural Sciences
- Business, Economics, and Public Administration
- Creative Arts and Design
- Education
- Engineering and Computer Science
- Health, Nutrition, and Clinical Sciences
- Humanities and Letters
- Physical and Mathematical Sciences

APPLICATION MATERIALS

Presenters must upload the following materials to the online application:

Abstract

All presenters must submit a maximum 200-word, one paragraph research abstract. Due to the competitive nature of the selection process, abstracts should be written for a general audience. Do not re-use abstracts or write in the same style as you might use for abstracts written for and submitted to niche technical conferences or disciplinary society meetings.

Please use the following format:

- Must be formatted in MS Word
- Single-spaced
- Arial font
- 10-pt. font
- Student name (First name, Last name) bold and 12-pt. font
- Name of presentation in italics
• One-inch margins
• Align justified
• Save as “Last name, First name Abstract”
• See Sample Abstract on application for more details

The following information must appear single-spaced on the upper left portion of the page:

• Name(s) of presenter(s)
• Degree objective and major
• Title of presentation (in italics)
• Faculty mentor(s)

Example: [http://www.calstatela.edu/orasca/symposium-sample-abstracts](http://www.calstatela.edu/orasca/symposium-sample-abstracts)

**Approval Page**

Applicants must use DocuSign to obtain Faculty Advisor signature and upload the provided approval page as a PDF. Visit [https://www.calstatela.edu/its/docusign](https://www.calstatela.edu/its/docusign) for more information on how to use DocuSign.

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Here is Faculty Approval Form to complete:

Approval Page Form
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**IMPORTANT NOTES:**

• If selected as a Cal State LA Delegate to the CSU Competition, you will be required to submit a five-page research summary.
• Students who plan to present research involving human subjects must have IRB approval for the research being presented.
• Students who are conducting research involving animals must have IACUC approval for the research being presented.
PROCEDURES FOR ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Student oral presenters will submit a pre-recorded 10-minute PowerPoint presentation (more details to follow) by 03/05/2021, and attend a virtual question and answer session with judges on 03/12/2021. Entrants in the Creative Arts and Design category may present an audio and/or visual record of a performance they have given or a work they have created; their pre-recorded oral presentation should focus on the rationale and historical context underlying their interpretation of the material.

Students will be judged both on their pre-recorded oral presentations and their written abstracts using the following criteria:

- Clarity of purpose
- Appropriateness of methodology
- Interpretation of results
- Value of the research or creative activity
- Ability of the presenter to articulate the research or creative activity
- Organization of the material presented
- Presenter’s ability to handle questions from judges by email

Judges will select one outstanding presentation in each discipline category. The top 10 presentations will be selected to compete in the statewide competition during the spring semester. In addition, three winners will be presented with the Gamma Epsilon Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi Awards for first, second, and third place.

PROCEDURES FOR POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Student poster presenters will submit their posters, pre-recorded five-minute presentation (more details to follow) and may need to answer emailed questions from the judges.

Students will be judged both on the poster and their responses to questions using the following criteria:

- Legibility of material on poster
- Organization of poster
- Sufficient background information
- Stated objective and/or hypothesis
- Appropriateness of methodology
- Clarity of results
- Stated summary and/or conclusion
- Contribution to the field
- Effective and engaging presentation
- Presenter’s ability to handle questions from judges and audience
Judges will select one outstanding poster in each discipline category.

ACCESS TO ONLINE APPLICATIONS

1. Go to https://calstatela.infoready4.com/
2. Click on Login at the upper right hand side corner.
3. Click on the blue button that says "Cal State LA Login" and login using your Cal State LA credentials.
4. **DO NOT Login for Other Users.**
5. On the top menu, click on the Calendar Tab.
6. On the right-hand side click on "List View" to find the application.
7. Complete the application form.