

Undergraduate Research Symposium and Celebration

The Office of Undergraduate Research announces the seventh-annual university-wide Undergraduate Research Symposium and Celebration. Open to all USF undergraduate students, the Research Symposium is co-sponsored by the Student Government. The event will serve once again to showcase the substantial research completed by many USF undergraduates, under faculty mentorship, and to encourage their peers to become actively engaged in research.

The Symposium will be held on **Friday, April 3rd, in the Marshall Center**. **Scholarship prizes totaling at least \$8,000 will be presented at the luncheon.** All undergraduate students enrolled at USF for the Fall or Spring Semesters of 2008-09 are invited to participate. Student may present the results of research, scholarship or creative activity in any discipline in which faculty receive tenure for these endeavors.

Please observe the following guidelines and timelines:

- ❖ Deadline to submit research paper or abstract is **February 25th**. Please submit one copy electronically and two hard copies to SVC 1088 no later than 4 p.m.
- ❖ Official notification of your selection will be by **March 20th**.
- ❖ On **April 3rd**, poster board and oral presentations will be scheduled between 8:00 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.
- ❖ The Luncheon will be held from 12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. All student participants and faculty mentors will be invited to attend.

The Rules:

Students from all colleges and disciplines may submit research conducted directly with a faculty mentor (“apprentice”), or as an A-graded course paper (“course-related”). You may also submit your thesis research, even if you do not yet have your results at the time of submission (“thesis”). Submissions in the “Creative” category can also be in any of these three categories.

Students should indicate whether they wish to do an oral or poster presentation, whether they would be willing to do a poster if their oral presentation is not accepted, and in which of the nine divisions they will be submitting:

Biomedical Sciences
Natural Sciences
Engineering, Physical Sciences and Math
Behavioral Sciences
Social Sciences
Humanities

Education
Arts and Creative Activity*
Interdisciplinary*

*Note that the “Arts” category is reserved for students presenting creative research; students conducting historical research in the arts (for example, musicology) should submit in the Humanities division, while students conducting research on arts education will probably want to submit in the Education division.

**For the purposes of the Symposium, “Interdisciplinary” refers to research combining disciplines from more than one symposium division. For example, someone whose research combines Engineering and Dance would probably choose “interdisciplinary,” while someone combining Chemistry and Biology should choose “natural sciences.”

All students must have approval from their faculty mentors BEFORE submitting their work. If the mentor or professor is not available to physically sign the application, he or she can send an email directly to Ms. Schumacher (lschumac@honors.usf.edu).

Types of Presentations

Students in all three categories are eligible to present posters, formal oral presentations of no longer than 15 minutes, or performances or creative readings of no longer than 15 minutes.

- Posters: Please submit an abstract of no more than 200 words describing your project, results (or expected results) and their significance. Keep in mind that your work may likely be reviewed by someone outside of your discipline; the abstract should be comprehensible to a faculty member in any of USF’s colleges. Dr. Dewey Rundus will be holding an abstract workshop on February 5th at 12:30 PM in SVC 1037.

15-minute oral presentations: If you wish to do an oral presentation, please choose one of the following options. (Generally, students in the humanities will probably want to choose the paper option.)

- PAPERS: Please submit an 8– 10 pp. (double-spaced, Times Roman 12 pt font) research paper that meets these general requirements or the equivalent standards for your field:
 - ✓ Statement of problem or thesis
 - ✓ Methodology
 - ✓ Brief review of literature
 - ✓ Research findings
 - ✓ Summary/conclusions

Please do not submit an entire thesis, or a paper longer than 8-10 pp. Your actual paper, if accepted, will have to be limited to 6 pp to fit into the 15 minutes allowed, so you should use this submission as an opportunity to decide upon what you will focus. PLEASE INCLUDE AN ABSTRACT or summary OF NO MORE THAN 150 words.

- 1000-word (double-spaced, Times Roman 12 pt font abstract, meeting these general requirements or the equivalent standards for your field:
 - ✓ Statement of problem or thesis
 - ✓ Methodology
 - ✓ Brief review of literature
 - ✓ Research findings
 - ✓ Summary/conclusions
 - ✓

PLEASE INCLUDE AN ABSTRACT OF NO MORE THAN 150 WORDS.

Please indicate on the application whether you would be willing to present a poster at the symposium if your paper is not accepted.

CREATIVE PRESENTATIONS:

Students should indicate whether they wish to present a poster or a fifteen-minute oral presentation. Please submit an abstract of no more than 250-words indicating the medium/a, the background and conceptual basis of the work, and what you will be presenting. If you have questions about what this abstract should entail, please contact Professor Marc Powers (mpowers@arts.usf.edu)