THE 32ND ANNUAL
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
STUDENT RESEARCH COMPETITION

SFSU CAMPUS COMPETITION
February 19 - 23, 2018

California State University,
Sacramento
May 4th and 5th, 2018

PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES

PURPOSE
The competition is held to promote excellence in undergraduate and graduate scholarly research and creative activity by recognizing outstanding student accomplishments throughout the twenty-three campuses of the California State University.

WHO MAY APPLY
Undergraduate or graduate students currently enrolled at SFSU as well as alumni/alumnae who received their degrees in Spring, Summer, or Fall 2017 are eligible. The research presented should be appropriate to the student’s discipline and career goals. Proprietary research is excluded. Presentations from all disciplines are invited.

Research involving human or animal subjects must have an approved protocol on file with the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs - Human and Animal Protections, http://research.sfsu.edu/protocol/.

Team research projects may be submitted, but only one student may give the oral presentation. If the submission is selected for presentation at the system-wide competition, only one student will be funded to attend.

There will be separate undergraduate and graduate divisions for each of the following categories (unless a division has four or fewer entrants, in which case undergraduate and graduate divisions may be combined). The Cal Poly steering committee reserves the right to combine or subdivide these categories or to move an entrant from one category to another, as numbers of submissions necessitate. The ten categories are as follows:
• Behavioral and Social Sciences
• Biological and Agricultural Sciences
• Business, Economics, and Public Administration
• Creative Arts and Design (creative projects are welcome—see "Competition Guidelines")
• Education
• Engineering and Computer Science
• Health, Nutrition, and Clinical Sciences
• Humanities and Letters
• Physical and Mathematical Sciences
• Interdisciplinary

HOW TO APPLY
The annual CSU Student Research Competition takes place in two phases. The first part of the competition is held on each campus; the second phase takes place for selected students at a CSU campus that is hosting the system-wide research conference. This year, the location of the system-wide competition is at California State University, Sacramento.

SFSU students interested in participating in the Competition must submit a registration form online http://grad.sfsu.edu/content/csu-research-competition, and submit their summary and appendices to Jasmine Flores by e-mail at jjflores@sfsu.edu. Please put CSU Student Research Competition and your last name in the Subject line.

The rules governing the written Summary are as follows:

• The summary must include the name(s) of the student(s) and the title of the presentation.
• The narrative may not exceed five doubled-spaced pages. Use fonts and margins that ensure legibility.
• Appendices (bibliography, graphs, photographs, or other supplementary materials) may not exceed three pages.
• Research that has human or animal subjects’ involvement must have appropriate institutional review.
• It is expected that the student will not make an oral presentation by simply reading directly from this summary.

Only eight pages total (five for the narrative and three for the appendices) should be submitted for your entry. Submission materials must be submitted electronically and titled: Category_LastName_GraduateorUndergraduateStudent by 5 pm on Monday, February 5, 2018, and emailed to Jasmine Flores in the Division of Graduate Studies at jjflores@sfsu.edu.
Students will be notified about the details (date/time/place during Feb 19 – 23, 2018) for the oral presentations of their research to a panel of judges and an audience.

**COMPETITION GUIDELINES**

Students will present their work orally before a jury and an audience. Students will compete by discipline category and, where feasible, by class standing (undergraduate/graduate), as described above in “Who May Apply.” Each student will have ten minutes for an oral presentation of his or her work and five minutes to listen and respond to juror and audience questions. All entrants may use audiovisual materials as appropriate, and presenters are encouraged to use delivery techniques that promote interaction with the audience. 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 oral presentation should focus on the rationale and historical context underlying their interpretation of the material.

The names of the students who are selected through the campus portion of the competition to represent SFSU at the system-wide conference will be sent to Cal State, Sacramento, along with their research summaries. The University will provide funds for travel for the students selected in each competition category to attend the system-wide competition on May 4-5, 2018. Winners traveling with the university must be able to attend the entire CSU Student Research competition and additional required events as communicated by Graduate Studies. Winners of the system-wide competition will also receive monetary awards.

At the system-wide competition at Cal State, Sacramento, students will also present their work orally before a jury and an audience. Students will compete by discipline category and class standing (undergraduate/graduate) as described above in "Who May Apply."

Each entry (oral presentation plus written summary) will be judged on the following:

- 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 the jury and general audience

**AWARDS**

Based on the recommendations of the jurors, an honorarium will be provided to the winner of each category selected to move forward to the larger CSU Competition. Winners of the system-wide competition will also receive monetary awards.
QUESTIONS

Please direct all questions about the student research competition to Jasmine Flores in the Division of Graduate Studies: jjflores@sfsu.edu or 415-405-4231.

Useful Written Summary Tips

- Detail the purpose of your project. Why this project? What was the problem? What is the rationale or historical context?
- How does your project fit into your area of study/program? (Do not forget to include previous studies/literature or creative works)
- Clearly explain your methodology. How did you test, analyze, and assess your data/project or artistic methods?
- Research or creative work findings/results
- Remind why your research is important by discussing/interpreting your results.
- Have your faculty mentor review your summary and use advise from them on how to structure your narrative submission.
- Most submissions include an introduction, brief literature review, methods, findings, discussion/interpretation of data, application/future study suggestions, and a conclusion.

Useful Presentation Tips

- Define key terms and jargon, remember judges may not be from your discipline. Make sure your speech is accessible to those from other disciplines.
- Clearly articulate your ideas, objectives, and/or research questions and importance of your findings.
- Describe your methods, artistic medium, and findings.
- When using a PowerPoint make sure your audience can follow your slides. Do not make your slides text heavy.
- When possible, include visuals (pictures, graphs, charts etc.,) versus text.
- Do not read directly from your slides or presentation notes.
- Practice your presentation so that you are comfortable with the material and can stay within the 10-minute time frame.
- Anticipate questions from the judges. If you do not know the answer that is ok, do not make one up but instead say, “That is a great question, I do not have an answer for that at the moment but would be happy to look into it.”