

Spring 2027

3 Minute Research Presentation (3MRP) Competition

**ABSTRACT & SLIDE SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH, 2027**

Students from all graduate academic programs and from all NAU campuses including the Phoenix Biomedical Campus, NAU Online, and statewide are encouraged to participate.

Purpose

The Office of Graduate & Professional Studies, in collaboration with the Office of the Provost, the Office of the Vice President for Research, Cline Library, and academic colleges, is hosting the annual 3-Minute Research Presentation (3MRP) Competition. The 3MRP Competition provides an opportunity for NAU graduate students to present research or scholarly work that they are conducting for a thesis, dissertation, creative work, or non-thesis research capstone project while pursuing their master's or doctoral degree at NAU to an educated, non-specialist audience in just three minutes. This professional development opportunity is designed to enhance graduate students' communication skills, as well as their capacity to effectively present research, scholarship, or creative work.

Background

The 3MRP is modeled after the [Three Minute Thesis \(3MT®\)](#) competition, which was first developed by the University of Queensland in 2008. This form of research communication is aimed at "developing academic, presentation, and research communication skills and supports the development of research students' capacity to effectively explain their research in three minutes in a language appropriate to an intelligent but non-specialist audience."

Presentation Information

The 3MRP Guidelines & Information PowerPoint can be found at [NAU 3 Minute Research Presentation - NAU Office of Graduate and Professional Studies](#). This document must be reviewed **by Friday, January 22nd** in preparation for the initial submission deadline.

For presentation examples, visit the NAU [3MRP webpage](#), which provides links to presentations by students from different disciplines. You may also view presentations from previous preliminary heats and final presentations on [YouTube](#) and hear previous 3MRP participants talk about their [3MRP experience](#).

Abstract & slide for the preliminary heat competition are due on **Friday, February 5th**, with preliminary heat presentations occurring on **Tuesday & Wednesday, February 16th & 17th** via MS Teams. The top presentations from the preliminary heats will advance to the in-person final competition.

The finalists will present their three-minute presentations in-person on **Wednesday, March 10, 2027, from 3:00pm – 4:30pm at the NAU Flagstaff Mtn. Campus, Ashurst Auditorium, Bldg. #11**. Prizes will be awarded to the top three winners.

Student Eligibility

- **IMPORTANT:** Students are not required to have completed their data analysis or be “defense ready” to participate in the 3MRP Competition. However, the competition is designed for participants who have made significant and meaningful progress on their research and can deliver a presentation that clearly addresses the research data, scope, significance, and impact of their work. **Presenting preliminary data, pilot study findings, or early results is acceptable.** While results do not need to be conclusive, the presentation should demonstrate thoughtful engagement with the research and articulate its contributions. **Students should consider participating in a future competition if they are in the beginning or planning stages of their research.**
- Presentations must be based on research directly related to the student’s thesis, dissertation, creative work, current research capstone project, or other similar projects. Research related to past or current employment (outside of NAU) will not be accepted.
- Students must be enrolled at NAU as graduate students during the Spring 2027 semester.
- The competition is open to master’s and doctoral students in [good academic standing](#), who have made substantial progress on research and analysis or creative work related to their academic program. Students from all academic programs are encouraged to participate.
- Participants from previous 3MRP events are eligible to participate; however, the top 3 finishers from previous 3MRPs are *not* eligible to compete.
- All participants are required to review the 3MRP Guidelines & Information PowerPoint and additional resources for the event at [NAU 3 Minute Research Presentation - NAU Office of Graduate and Professional Studies](#).
- All participants will be asked to agree to be recorded and allow media exposure for their presentation and research.

Abstract Criteria

The Abstract (200-500 words) should include the following information:

1. Clarity of the project’s focus (What is the purpose of the project?)
2. Significance of the research or creative activity (Why is this project important?)
3. Impact of the research or creative activity (What application does this project have?)

Abstract & Slide Submission

A brief **Abstract** (see criteria above) and **Preliminary Heat Slide** must be submitted to 3MRP@nau.edu by **Friday, February 5th**.

Participant Timeline:

(Please email any questions to 3MRP@nau.edu)

By Friday, January 22nd	Review the 3MRP Guidelines & Information PowerPoint.
Saturday, January 23rd – Thursday, February 4th	Prepare Abstract & Slide - Suggested preparation: • Review judging criteria, rules, and additional resources: NAU 3 Minute Research Presentation - NAU Office of Graduate and Professional Studies • Meet with Cline Research Librarian to discuss research and presentation • Create 3MRP Abstract (200-500 words, see criteria on page 2) and Slide • Practice and consider recording a 3MRP Presentation (Similar to presenting in the preliminary heats & final competition e.g., standing (if possible); dressed professionally; no prompts (notecards, etc.) or reading of material)
By Friday, February 5th	Submit Abstract & Preliminary Heat Slide to 3MRP@nau.edu
By Monday, February 8th	Sign up for Preliminary Heat date/time (link will be provided)
Tuesday, February 16th and Wednesday, February 17th	Preliminary Heat Competition (15-minute increments) via MS Teams (link to be provided) Suggested preparation: • Practice 3MRP Presentation Standing (if possible) in preparation for final 3MRP competition; dressed professionally; NO reading or use of prompts/notecards (participant will be disqualified) • Solicit feedback from peers on presentation and slide
Friday, February 19th	Notification of finalists and Preliminary Heat feedback to students' NAU email
By Friday, February 26th	Finalists - submit bio, professional headshot, and <i>final</i> 3MRP slide to 3MRP@nau.edu
Saturday, February 27th – Sunday, March 7th	Prepare for the final competition - Suggested preparation for finalists: • Practice finalized 3MRP Presentation • Solicit feedback from mentors and peers
Wednesday, March 10th 3:00pm -4:30pm	Final 3MRP Competition at NAU-Ashurst Auditorium (other students, finalists' guests, faculty members, administrators and community members are all invited to attend). Finalists arrive at 2:30 p.m.

Revised 8.31.26