

2026 GRS FAQs

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Background Information

What is the GRS?

Held annually each spring, the Graduate Research Symposium (GRS) allows DU grad students from all areas of study to showcase research and other forms of scholarship to faculty, peers, and the local community. GRS consists of a poster session and oral podium presentations. The GRS also now has a virtual presence with online posters and videos hosted on Symposium by Forager One. Participants in the GRS are eligible for several monetary awards.

ELIGIBILITY AND HOW TO APPLY

Who is eligible to participate in the GRS?

The GRS is open to DU graduate students from all disciplines who have completed or are in the process of completing an individual or collaborative research project and have approval from a project advisor.

How do I participate in the GRS?

Participants must submit an abstract and information by the deadline specified on our main page. Registration typically opens at the beginning of the Spring semester and the deadline is usually about one month from the event (which typically takes place in March).

Registration will include:

- Student contact info + program, school, year.
- Faculty Advisor name & email.
- Group members' names/info (if applicable).
- Title of your project and an abstract (max. 350 words)
- Whether you will be able to participate in-person or if you can only participate virtually.
- Whether you would like to be considered for an oral presentation.

Does my project have to be from the semester during which the GRS occurs?

Nope! We accept projects from either semester, as long as your work was completed as a student at Duquesne.

My research or project is not yet complete. Am I still able to submit an abstract?

Yes! Your project does not necessarily have to be complete at the time of submission or when you present.

PROJECT QUESTIONS

What kind of research/projects are accepted?

Many students build presentations around their thesis/dissertation as well as projects originating in a class or other research papers. We accept individual and group presentations from all disciplines. Due to time, the number of students who present orally is limited. However, all students who submit a valid abstract will be accepted to the poster session.

Can group work be presented at the symposium?

Yes! Research and scholarship often involve peers and collaborators. If you are submitting a group project, please choose ONE group member to register on the group's behalf. This person will act as the "group leader" and will be in charge of forwarding any communication to the other members.

I'm planning on presenting my project at another symposium. Am I allowed to use the same project for the GRS?

Sure! The GRS is a great venue to practice for upcoming symposia or other professional events. Please note: if the other conference has different poster dimensions and you plan to reuse that poster here, you are asked to inform the Office of Student Research at the time of submission deadline so we can accommodate you.

Do you accept projects in formats other than posters?

Yes! The GRS celebrates research and scholarship from all disciplines. We realize that not all forms of scholarship are best represented in a poster format. Over the years, we have had a variety of creative displays of scholarship. From instrumental performances of original compositions to slideshows on laptops, we try our best to accommodate your work.

Does my research project require Institutional Review Board (IRB) review/approval?

If you are interacting with human subjects or analyzing data from human subjects, your research might need to be reviewed before you begin your project. We recommend you work closely with your project advisor to determine whether IRB review is required. If you are uncertain about whether your project needs reviewed, please contact one of the IRB review faculty in your school to discuss the details of the project. If it is determined that your research does need review, you should allow for 20 - 45 days depending on the type of review. Developing your skills as a researcher requires good ethical practices, including how best to engage with the IRB process. If IRB is required, you will also need to complete the CITI Training on ethical research practices. To learn more about the IRB at Duquesne University, including the CITI Training, visit <http://www.duq.edu/mentor>. The institution ID is duq and you can login with your multipass credentials. There is a great deal of information about CITI and the IRB submission process under the "IRB" tab.

In-Person Poster Presentations

What dimensions should my poster be?

Posters must be NO LARGER than 36" (tall) by 44" (wide). Students are required to share a poster board with one other student or group project. Therefore, it is important to stay within the dimensions to avoid having to overlap posters.

My project requires me to set up supporting material. Can you provide me with something to help display that material?

We can try! The online submission form will have a place to indicate “Special Requests.” We ask that you include things like this. We will follow-up with all submitters who have such requests and will do our best to accommodate them.

How will I know where to set up my poster?

Each participant is assigned an abstract number in the weeks leading up to the symposium. It's important that students check their email regularly for instructions and other information. Corkboards and tables will be labeled during the GRS set up.

Where can I get my poster printed?

- Duquesne University no longer has an on-campus print center. The Manager of Print Services is contracting with an off-campus vendor to facilitate poster printing. If you wish to have your poster printing coordinated through the University and your department or faculty advisor is covering the cost, the process will be as follows:
 - 36" x 44" poster
 - Poster must be submitted as a **PDF**. Please follow this naming convention:
2026GRS_LASTNAME
 - Poster must be turned in to your faculty advisor or department point person to ensure that they approve the poster and it is in the correct format. (Please discuss the deadline with your department chair or advisor.)
 - All posters from a department or faculty advisor will be forwarded to the Manager of Print Services via email with the appropriate Banner numbers for payment. (This will be handled by your department or advisor.)
 - Posters must be submitted to your faculty advisor or point person by no later than Monday March 9, 2026. **PLEASE NOTE:** If you are unable to meet this deadline (or the internal deadline set by your department), it will be your responsibility to find someone to print your poster.
- If your department or faculty advisor are not paying for your poster, you must still follow the process above but the email sent by your faculty advisor or department point person will indicate that you will be covering the cost. Acceptable forms of payment are cash or check and must be provided when you pick up your poster. The copy center CANNOT ACCEPT CREDIT/DEBIT cards.

- Note: The Office of Research and Innovation does not handle poster printing. However, if you or your department contact has questions regarding this process please contact Christine Pollock at pollockc@duq.edu.

Where can I pick up my poster?

- Posters can be picked up at the Shepperson Suite in the Power Center Ballroom on Tuesday March 17, 2026 between 9 am and 3:30 pm.
- If your poster was turned in prior to the March 9 deadline, you may pick it up earlier than March 17. Please coordinate this with the Manager of Print Services at (412)396-6391

Oral Presentations

Who is eligible to give an oral presentation?

The number of oral presenters is limited and they are selected in advance by a peer review committee. Those who are interested in giving an oral presentation can indicate so in the online submission form. Abstracts from those students will be reviewed anonymously. Oral presentation decisions will be sent within 1-2 weeks of the submission deadline.

If I am selected to orally present, am I required to also participate in the poster session?

No. You can indicate in the online submission form whether or not you want to also present a poster if you are selected as an oral presenter, and if you would still like to present a poster if you are not selected.

What is the set-up of the oral presentation sessions?

The Oral Presentation sessions consist of a podium with a microphone, an audience, and a screen for power points or other media. The podium contains a computer and audio capabilities. If you are unable to attend the in-person event, you will be able to present via Zoom.

What is the time limit for my oral presentation?

Oral presentations are limited to 15 minutes, including any Q & A. Please consider structuring your talk in order to leave time for questions from your audience!

The Virtual Symposium

What are the features of the virtual symposium?

The Symposium by Forager One is a platform that allows students to feature virtual posters and video presentations.

Do we have to comment and participate online?

Throughout Graduate Research Week you should interact with posters online by using the comment function. Be sure to check your email for updates and answer any questions from peers or judges.

What should I include in my 2-3 minute video?

Your videos should be a research presentation describing your project and its significance in a way that a non-expert, educated audience can understand. All videos may be used by judges in making their final awards decisions, and presentations that are only virtual will definitely be used by judges in making their decisions.

How should I record my video?

We recommend recording your video using your computer's camera, the recording function on Zoom, or using your phone (just be sure that your phone is "landscape" style).

How do I upload my virtual poster and video to the Symposium by Forager One site?

- Upload your video to YouTube as an "Unlisted Video".
- Save the link to your video.
- The ORI will send instructions to all participants following the abstract deadline, including a link to the form that will be used to submit your information to Symposium by Forager One.
- You will need the following to complete your upload:
 1. Link to your YouTube Video
 2. Authors of Project
 3. Title of Project
 4. Abstract
 5. A pdf copy of your poster

When will the Virtual Symposium take place?

The virtual GRS will be available Monday – Friday of the event week, 24 hours per day. A schedule of the online workshops will be posted closer to the time of the event.

Virtual Poster Sessions

The Virtual Poster Session will take place on an online platform Symposium by Forager One. Create a PDF of your poster. Create a 2-3 minute video or audio explanation to accompany the poster. Students will upload their videos to YouTube and then share the unlisted YouTube link with us (instructions will be sent out to participants). Posters and accompanying videos will be uploaded by YOU no later than one week prior to the event. Upload instructions will be sent out to participants.

Peers, faculty, and staff will comment throughout the week asking questions and encouraging responses.

Are there any publishing opportunities for my research?

If you are selected to give an oral presentation, you will be invited to submit a paper for publication in the URSS Proceedings published in the DU Scholarship Collection.

Oral presenters are chosen by a peer selection committee. Slots are limited. You will be informed sometime after the deadline whether or not you have been selected.

General Questions

When will I find out if I have been accepted to participate in the poster session?

All graduate students who submit a valid abstract are accepted into the poster session. We will inform you if there are any issues with your registration. Once the submission deadline has passed, you will begin to receive email correspondence from us with further instruction.

Awards and Judging

What sort of awards does the GRS have to offer?

Thanks to our generous departmental and organizational sponsors, there are several monetary award opportunities for student participants. Check out our awards page for more information.

How are the awards judged?

Judges representing various departmental and organizational sponsors will be given the abstracts in advance of the event. After the mandatory set-up the evening before the GRS, the judges will have the opportunity to view posters without the students present. At this time, some judges choose a select number of posters belonging to groups or individuals who they would like to talk with the next day. The day of the symposium, judges will also be present to interact with student. Judges will also view virtual posters online. Please note that due to the volume to presenters, not all students will get the chance to speak with judges in person.

I won an award at the GRS. How do I collect my winnings?

A representative from the sponsoring award will reach out to you via email if they need additional information in order to process the award checks. Checks will be processed in the weeks following the event.