Three Minute Thesis
Information Session

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3MT: A Variation on the “Elevator Pitch”

• Some examples of why you or your students should participate
  – Improves job interview skills
  – Almost all professionals have to pitch ideas to non-experts – e.g.:
    • Pitching ideas to managers
    • Competing for commercial projects
    • Getting funding for projects (commercial/academic/non-profit)
    • Talking to politicians and/or their representatives
About 3MT

- Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) is a research communication competition which challenges graduate students to present a compelling oration on their research and its significance in just three minutes in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience.

- 3MT is NOT an exercise in trivializing or ‘dumbing-down’ research but forces students to consolidate their ideas and crystalize their research discoveries.
Eligibility

• Anyone who is registered and enrolled in a graduate program in the fall of 2021 will be eligible to participate in 3MT.

• Students who have graduated are not eligible.

• Competitors who are eligible on November 15, 2021 shall remain so for the regional competitions irrespective of subsequent changes to their status.
Progression

Each Department selects department winner(s). Departments have the choice to run their own heats or nominate students (Nomination Deadline Oct. 27).

University Wide Semi-Finals. All department winners compete against each other (Nov. 4).

University-Wide Final Competition. Top 15 students from the Semi-Final round advance to the Finals (Nov. 15).
Additional Resources for students

• **The Speaking Studio: Presentation Lab on Campus FREE and open to ALL Students!**
  FREE Presentation Lab in Reese Phifer Suite 166. Available time slots and sign-up process online at [www.speakingstudio.ua.edu](http://www.speakingstudio.ua.edu)

• **Career Center’s Mock Interview portal**
  All students can practice their 3MT presentations either Person-to-Person or through Virtual Mock Interviews
Deadlines and Dates

• **Wednesday, October 27th**
  Deadline to submit the name(s) of your department winner(s) to the Graduate School.

• **Thursday, November 4th 11:00am-5:00pm**
  Rose G55: Semi-Final Competition

• **Monday, November 15th 7:00-8:30pm**
  Ferguson Center Ballroom: Final Competition
Rules for Competition

• A single static PowerPoint slide is permitted. No slide transitions, animations or ‘movement’ of any description are allowed. The slide is to be presented from the beginning of the oration.
• No additional electronic media (e.g. sound and video files) are permitted.
• No additional props (e.g. costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment) are permitted.
• Presentations are limited to 3 minutes maximum and competitors exceeding 3 minutes are disqualified.
• Presentations are to be spoken word (e.g. no poems, raps or songs).
• Presentations are to commence from the stage.
• Presentations are considered to have commenced when a presenter starts their presentation through either movement or speech.
• The decision of the adjudicating panel is final.
Judging Criteria

• Comprehension and content
  – Presentation provided clear background and significance to the research question
  – Presentation clearly described the research strategy/design and the results/findings of the research
  – Presentation clearly described the conclusions, outcomes and impact of the research

• Engagement and communication
  – The oration was delivered clearly, and the language was appropriate for a non-specialist audience
  – The PowerPoint slide was well-defined and enhanced the presentation
  – The presenter conveyed enthusiasm for their research and captured and maintained the audience’s attention
Judging Rubric
An Example 3MT Presentation
What made Kaitlyn’s 3MT talk a winning talk?

Could anything be improved?
Other Resources

• 2021 UA 3MT web page
  • https://graduate.ua.edu/current-students/3mt

• 2020 UA 3MT Finalist Presentations
  • https://alabama.box.com/s/s77xhsrri99c0y0zzoxiwquoj30vdmct

• Winning 3MT presentations from around the globe and other resources
  • https://threeminutethesis.uq.edu.au/watch-3mt
  • https://threeminutethesis.uq.edu.au/resources
Prizes

First Place: $1500 Scholarship
Compete at the CSGS 3MT Competition

Second Place: $1000 Scholarship

Third Place: $750 Scholarship

Fourth Place: $250 Scholarship

People’s Choice: $750 Scholarship
Questions?

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