

Information on Abstract Submissions

To participate in the WKU Student Research Conference, students must apply by submitting abstracts for their scholarly activities. Each WKU student is permitted to serve as the primary author/presenter on one presentation at the conference. The presentation can be an oral paper, a poster or exhibit or display, a performance, or a video. Off-campus students can participate in the conference through a remote session.

Students who graduate in December are welcome to present their scholarly works at the spring conference if the projects were completed when they were students. An abstract is a miniature version of a scholarly paper, poster, performance, video, or exhibit. It is a one paragraph summary of the main sections of the work.

An **abstract** typically includes an introduction describing the research question, goal, or intent of the project; the methods, procedure, materials, or approach of the project; the results, findings, or product of the project; and a discussion describing the significance, implications, and conclusions of the project. The emphasis on these basic components will vary by discipline. A well-written abstract should make the reader want to learn more about the project.

Abstracts are limited to 200 words. Students should work with their faculty mentors to draft their abstracts. Additional tips are available from the resource links at the right. Students typically revise their abstracts several times before submitting them for the conference. Students should use special characters sparingly in the abstract.

In addition to the abstract, students are required to submit the following information about their scholarly projects:

Title of the presentation

Type of presentation (oral paper, poster/exhibit/display, performance, video), as described below

Subject area (business, health & human services, humanities, interdisciplinary, natural sciences, social sciences & education) of the presentation

If the presentation is part of an **organized symposium** or a **general session**, as described below

Contact information (names, emails, phone numbers) for the primary student author-presenter, the faculty mentor, any student co-presenters (up to three additional students who will be physically present to deliver the presentation), and additional co-authors (up to six additional people who contributed to the project's creation); these roles are described below

An **organized symposium** is a set of presentations that are linked together by a common theme and intended to be viewed as a cohesive group. The students participating in the

symposium are identified in advance and the presentations in the symposium proposal are considered as a group by the conference organizers. For example, geology, geography, GIS, engineering, AMS, and applied physics students who contributed to the Corvette Museum sinkhole collapse response might organize a symposium to present their experiences. The symposium can include a set of posters/exhibits/displays or a set of papers, performances, and/or videos. The symposium must have a title, a sponsoring unit on campus (such as a college, department, program, or student organization), and a faculty or staff member to serve as the chair of the symposium (in some situations, a graduate student may be able to serve as a symposium chair). The symposium chair is responsible for assisting student participants with their submissions and recommending an order for the presentations in the symposium. The symposium chair is welcome to introduce the symposium and the speakers at the conference; otherwise, this duty will fall to the session judges, as usual.

A **general session** is a set of unrelated presentations that are combined more arbitrarily by the conference organizers. The general sessions are organized according to subject area (business, health and human services, humanities, interdisciplinary, natural sciences, social sciences and education). For example, a natural sciences general session may have two biology students, one geology student, two chemistry students, and one astronomy student. Students whose presentations were not accepted as part of an organized symposium will be considered for a general session.

The **primary author-presenter** is the person who presents the work at the conference. This student is the person with whom the conference organizers will communicate about acceptance/rejection of the abstract submission and scheduling the presentation at the conference. If other students collaborated on the project and will take part in the conference presentation, they should be listed as **co-presenters** in the submission. Up to three additional students may serve as co-presenters on a submission. If other students collaborated on the project but will not take part in the conference presentation, they should be listed as **co-authors** in the submission. Faculty/staff may be listed co-authors if they contributed to the project (check with your mentor) but they cannot be co-presenters. Up to six other people may be listed as co-authors.

Please follow this link to submit an abstract: <https://www.wku.edu/src/>

Upon submitting an abstract, the faculty mentor is notified to review and approve the submission. Only those submissions approved by faculty mentors will be considered by the conference scheduling committee.

Students may **modify or delete their abstract submissions** prior to the deadline of February 27, 2024. To do so, visit the SRC Administration web page below and log-in with your NetID and password.

<https://webapps.wku.edu/src/index.php?fuseaction=auth.notLoggedIn>

Faculty mentors will be notified to re-review and re-approve submissions each time students make revisions. Due to time constraints in preparing the conference schedule and program, students are not permitted to modify or delete their submissions after the deadline.

Students are notified regarding acceptance or rejection of the submission.

Submission of an abstract obligates the student to attend the conference should the paper, poster/exhibit/display, performance, or video be selected for presentation.

Accordingly, students must be certain they are available all day the day of the conference before submitting an abstract. Students who are accepted to participate but fail to do so may be barred from participating in future conferences. Failure to present one's work at an academic meeting after being accepted is considered a serious scholarly offense and is not tolerated by professional organizations.