



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Tenth Annual Research and Creative Activities Poster and Performance Day

April 14, 2016

FACT SHEET: GRADUATE STUDENT POSTER PRESENTATIONS AND PERFORMANCES

- Why Participate:** This is a great opportunity for WMU graduate students to promote university scholarship and be recognized for research and creative activities. It is also a great way to gain experience in making professional presentations and performances that can be listed on your resume and/or CV. Prizes in the form of a check, with a minimum award of \$200, for outstanding presentations and performances will be awarded on the day of the event.
- When to Participate:** The 2016 Research and Creative Activities Poster and Performance Day will take place on Thursday, April 14, 2016 at WMU's Bernhard Center South Ballroom, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. A continental breakfast and buffet luncheon will be provided.
- Time Commitment:** Students should be present to set up for their poster presentation and/or prepare for their performance at 8:30 a.m. on April 14, 2016. Judging will take place between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., and students must be present to make oral presentations in support of their projects and/or perform their creations to judges. Students are invited to stay after judging to participate in the other events.
- Responsibilities:** WMU graduate students engaged in research will create visual poster displays outlining a research project of their choosing. WMU graduate students engaged in creative activity will perform a selection of their choice (e.g., musical composition or arrangement). Collaborative posters or ensemble performances that include more than one student are welcome, although only one prize per poster or performance will be awarded.
- Students in each category (research and creative activity) will discuss their poster or performance with judges selected to critique their work. Scoring criteria for each type of participation, poster and discussion, performance and discussion, are included with this overview.
- Nominations:** WMU graduate students wishing to participate in the Tenth Annual Research and Creative Activities Poster and Performance Day should contact their department chair or graduate advisor. Departments are limited to **two** nominations each (a collaborative poster or performance counts as one nomination). **The department chair, graduate advisor, or designated departmental individual must submit the department's nominations (no more than two) to Linda Comrie, Graduate College, linda.comrie@wmich.edu by 5 p.m. March 18, 2016.**
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JUDGING CRITERIA ♦ GRADUATE STUDENT POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Student poster presentations are judged for their quality in two primary categories: (a) **Clarity and Content** of the poster display and (b) **Oral Presentation** summarizing the student's work. The maximum score available is 50 points. For each primary category, the criteria and scales described below are used to assess and score the quality of each poster and corresponding discussion.

NOTE: If the student researcher is not in attendance to present the poster or performance during the judging period, the work will not be judged. If the poster or performance has multiple authors, only one student author is required to attend and present.

1. Clarity and Content: Up to 30 total points

Each poster will be evaluated on the information included and format of the information display on the poster. Research poster **Clarity and Content** are critiqued in the **six** areas or subcategories listed below. The subcategory scores are summed to calculate the total score for **Clarity and Content**. A maximum of 5 points for each subcategory is available, as indicated in the scale provided.

Subcategory	Criteria
Statement of Problem or Purpose	The focus of the research was clearly conveyed in the poster display, including the specific purpose and/or research questions if appropriate.
Background or Rationale	The background or rationale for the study was clearly described (i.e., the research poster clearly conveyed why this project was important, the problem addressed, and or why and how the subject or topic was chosen).
Research or Project Design	The materials and methods used to complete the study or activity were clearly presented and appeared appropriate and or adequate to address the problem or purpose.
Results	The results of the study or project were clearly presented or summarized in a manner appropriate for the study design and/or data type(s) (e.g., graphs, tables, other graphics).
Status and Conclusions	The status or conclusions of the study or project was clearly explained, including how this work adds to the field or discipline.
Overall Impact	The overall poster display was well organized, appropriately labeled, and easy to read and follow.

A score for each subcategory of *Clarity and Content* above will be assigned using the following scale:

Rating Scale	Value	Description
Excellent	5	Exceptional in every way. Equal in quality to the very best.
Good	4	Above average, but lacking something minor in overall content or display.
Average	3	Satisfactory content or display that could be improved.
Marginal	2	Lacking in quality, but meets minimum expectations.
Poor	1	Unsatisfactory. Did not meet minimum expectations.
Missing	0	Information regarding this criterion is not included on the poster.

2. Oral Presentation: Up to 20 total points

Each poster presentation will include a discussion of the work or project with each judge for approximately 5 – 10 minutes, from which the score for **Oral Presentation** will be derived. **Oral Presentation** is critiqued in the **four** areas or subcategories listed below. The subcategory scores are summed to calculate the total score for **Oral Presentation**.

Subcategory	Criteria
Mastery	The student adequately conveyed the purpose and relevant details of the project, demonstrating mastery of the topic.
Communication	The student clearly articulated the information so it was understandable to someone outside the particular field of study.
Organization	The student's presentation and responses to questions were organized and flowed in an appropriate order.
Professionalism	The student demonstrated professionalism during the presentation and/or in response to the judge's questions, aligned with professional expectations for this type of presentation.

A score for each subcategory above will be assigned using the following scale, then summed to determine the **Presentation** score:

Rating Scale	Value	Description
Excellent	5	Exceptional in every way. Equal in quality to the very best.
Good	4	Above average, but lacking something minor in overall presentation.
Average	3	Satisfactory presentation that could be improved.
Marginal	2	Lacking in quality, but meets minimum expectations.
Poor	1	Unsatisfactory. Did not meet minimum expectations.
Missing	0	This information was not included in the presentation.



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JUDGING CRITERIA ♦ GRADUATE STUDENT PERFORMANCE PRESENTATIONS

Student performances are judged for their quality in two primary categories: (a) **Clarity and Content** and (b) **Performance**. The maximum score available is 50 points. For each primary category, the criteria and scales described below are used to assess and score the quality of each performance and corresponding discussion.

The TOTAL time allowed for a performance is 25 minutes, including a maximum of 15 minutes for the performance and 10 minutes for questions. Judges will end a performance at the 15 minute limit to begin questions, if the performance is not completed by that time.

NOTE: If the student is not in attendance to present the poster or performance during the judging period, the work will not be judged. If the poster or performance has multiple authors, only one student author is required to attend and present.

1. Clarity and Content: Up to 30 total points

Each performance will include a discussion of the work or project, from which the score for **Clarity and Content** will be derived. This portion of the performance may include—at the performer’s(s’) preference—any of the following formats: (a) judges asking the student(s) to describe the work or project; (b) the student(s) offering a prepared written or oral analysis of the project to be followed by relevant questions from judges; and/or (c) the student(s) intermixing short periods of performance with breaks for description and analysis with relevant questions from the judges.

Each performance will be judged on clarity and content in the **six** areas or subcategories listed below. The subcategory scores are summed to calculate the total score for **Clarity and Content**. A maximum of 5 points for each subcategory is available, as indicated in the scale provided.

Subcategory	Criteria
Statement of Problem or Purpose of the work	The focus of the work was clearly conveyed in the discussion and/or related materials, including the specific purpose and/or research questions if appropriate.
Background or Rationale	The background or rationale for the work was clearly articulated (i.e., the performer clearly conveyed why this project was important, the problem addressed, and/or why and how the subject or topic was chosen).
Project Design	The approaches and methods used to prepare the work were clearly described and appeared appropriate and/or adequate to address the problem or purpose.
Results	The end results of the work were clearly described or summarized in a manner appropriate for the type of performance.
Status and Conclusions	The performer(s) clearly explained how this work adds to the field or discipline.
Overall Impact	The overall performance was well organized and easy to follow.

A score for each subcategory of *clarity and content* above will be assigned using the following scale:

Rating Scale	Value	Description
Excellent	5	Exceptional in every way. Equal in quality to the very best.
Good	4	Above average, but lacking something minor in overall content or display.
Average	3	Satisfactory content or display that could be improved.
Marginal	2	Lacking in quality, but meets minimum expectations.
Poor	1	Unsatisfactory. Did not meet minimum expectations.
Missing	0	This criterion was not included or addressed

2. Performance: Up to 20 total points

The live or oral performance criteria—focusing on the actual physical performance of the work (i.e., musical performance)—is evaluated in the **four** areas or subcategories listed below. The subcategory scores are summed to calculate the total score for **Live or Oral Performance**. A maximum of 5 points for each subcategory is available using the scale provided.

Subcategory	Criteria
Mastery	The performer(s) demonstrated mastery of their technique (e.g., intonation, physicality, vocal characteristics, instrumentation, etc.)
Communication	The performance communicated an appropriate connectedness with the material and project. The performer(s) connected with his/her/their audience appropriate to the project (e.g., the performance elicited a response and or connection with the work)
Sophistication	The content of the creative work was at a level of sophistication expected of a graduate student. The performer(s) used the chosen medium effectively for the particular content.
Professionalism	The performer(s) exhibited professionalism during the performance, aligned with expectations of the field for such work.

A score for each subcategory above will be assigned using the following scale, then summed to determine the **Performance** score:

Rating Scale	Value	Description
Excellent	5	Exceptional in every way. Equal in quality to the very best.
Good	4	Above average, but lacking something minor in overall presentation.
Average	3	Satisfactory presentation that could be improved.
Marginal	2	Lacking in quality, but meets minimum expectations.
Poor	1	Unsatisfactory. Did not meet minimum expectations.
Missing	0	This criterion was not evident in the performance.