

Spring 2026

3 Minute Research Presentation (3MRP) Competition

SLIDE SUBMISSION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH, 2026

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 and 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."

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

Presentation Information

The Office of Graduate and Professional Studies is in the process of preparing an updated 3MRP Resource Guide and Checklist which is required to be reviewed **by January 30th**. This information will be posted to the 3MRP webpage in December 2025 and include information about the event, competition rules, and tips for success.

Submissions for the preliminary heat competition are due on **February 20th**, with presentations occurring on **March 3rd & 4th** via Zoom. 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 **Thursday, April 9, 2026, from 3:00pm – 4:30pm at the NAU Flagstaff Mtn. Campus, Ashurst Auditorium, Bldg. #11**. Prizes will be awarded for the top three winners. Finalists will receive additional information about presenting in the final competition.

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 a graduate student during the spring 2026 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 competitors are required to review the 3MRP Resource Guide & Checklist for information on the event, competition rules, and tips for success (available December 2025).
- All competitors will be asked to agree to be recorded and allow media exposure for their presentation and research.

Final Application Submission

Final Slide must be submitted to 3MRP@nau.edu by **Friday, February 20th**.

Participant Timeline:

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

By January 30th	Please review the 3MRP Resource Guide and Checklist by January 30th . This information will be posted to the 3MRP webpage in December 2025 and include information about the event, rules, and tips for success.
January 31st - February 19th	Prepare slide - Suggested preparation: • Review Judging Criteria, Rules, Evaluation Form, and Additional Resources https://nau.edu/graduate-professional-studies/3-minute-research-presentation/ • Meet with Cline Research Librarian to discuss research and presentation • Create 3MRP 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 February 20th	Submit Preliminary Heat slide to 3MRP@nau.edu and sign up for Preliminary Heat date/time (link will be provided)
March 3rd and 4th	Preliminary Heat Competition (15-minute increments) via Zoom (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
March 6th	Notification of finalists to students' NAU email
March 9th – March 13th	Spring Break
By March 20th	Finalists - submit bio, professional headshot, and <i>final</i> 3MRP slide to 3MRP@nau.edu
March 7th – April 7th	Prepare for the finals - Suggested preparation for finalists: • Practice finalized 3MRP Presentation • Solicit feedback from mentors and peers
Thursday, April 9th 3:00 - 4:30pm	Final 3MRP Presentations at NAU-Ashurst Auditorium (other students, finalists' guests, faculty members, administrators and community members are all invited to attend). Finalists arrive at 2:30pm.

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