

Apply for the Undergraduate Research Colloquium & Colloquium Unbound

Application period: March 1 - April 1

Checklist

- Write a 100 word (maximum) abstract. This should be written for the non-specialist
- Create your Colloquium Entry in the URCA Portal
 - Be sure to select the correct entry - either the Poster Colloquium or Colloquium Unbound
- Are you a group? Designate ONE student to upload the project's abstract with their entry form before any other group members enter
 - Select "Group" from the dropdown menu on the entry form
 - Remaining group members can then complete entry forms and associate themselves with the group by selecting the project's title
- If you are presenting work that is part of a professor's project, speak with them BEFORE applying about whether or not they are comfortable with you presenting the work at a public colloquium

Entry Form

The entry form will open on March 1, 2020 and the deadline to complete an entry form is April 1, 2020.

General Notes

The abstract should be written for the non-specialist. Please make sure your mentor has reviewed the abstract prior to its submission. If you are submitting an entry for an individual project or are in charge of submitting the abstract for a group project, the abstract must be limited to 100 words or less for inclusion in the Colloquium book.

Group Project Submissions

Projects with more than one undergraduate researcher are considered to be group projects. The group must designate one undergraduate presenter to upload the project's abstract on his/her entry form. This individual must submit his/her entry first. The remaining group members must include the project title on their forms so they can be identified and associated with the correct abstract. An entry form is required from each individual in the group seeking to present or be recognized at the colloquium. Remember that your group only needs to submit one abstract.

Poster Guidelines

[**Information about a cost-friendly poster-printer on campus is available here**](#)

[**The Office of Research has an excellent page on poster presentations**](#)

Presentations must be self-contained posters that can be pinned to a rolling cork board provided at the event. Posters should be no larger than 2 ft. x 3 ft. with a portrait orientation. Posters must be set up and ready to view 20 minutes before the start of the poster session. Subject to class schedule, the author(s) of the poster must be present and remain for the entire session so that attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions.

The goal for your poster exhibit is to have an organized and attractively displayed presentation of your research findings or creative work. Posters should be self-explanatory and readable within about five minutes. Your mentor should provide guidance on poster content. Your poster should contain the following elements:

Title

At the top of your poster/exhibit, you should have a title that is both short and very descriptive of your project. As a rule, the title should be easily readable at a distance of about 4-5 feet.

Name and Affiliation

Directly under the title, you should include your name, your faculty mentor's name, name(s) of any illustrations, tables, figures, photographs, diagrams, co-investigator(s), and your UCSB department. The name and affiliation section is usually about 20-30% smaller than the title section. Please also include acknowledgement of any grants received, including an URCA grant.

Body of the Poster/Exhibit

The information about your work can be presented in the following categories:

Abstract

A synopsis of no more than 100 words of the work described on the poster. The abstract should be understandable, allowing the readers to decide whether they would like to continue reading the entire poster. The abstract should contain (a) the purpose of the study, (b) a brief statement of what you did, (c) a concise statement of the major findings, and (d) the major conclusions. Do not include details of the methods. Crafting an effective abstract is challenging. Please look here for more resources.

Introduction

The introduction presents the question being explored, the work's significance, and its place in the context of current knowledge about the topic. To do this well on a poster is a challenge. Be brief, but include the important points to be sure the reader sees the relevance of your work.

Methods

This section describes your procedures. Describe your methods in sufficient detail to allow a reader who works in your field to understand how you collected data. Illustrations are appropriate for complex experimental design, etc.

Results

This section summarizes the data. Report the results of any statistical tests here. Present all of your results, whether positive or negative. A table or figure may substitute for a written summary as long as each table or figure has a legend that explains the graphic clearly.

Discussion

In this section you should interpret the meaning of your results with respect to the original questions. The discussion should include your conclusions about the answers to the questions that motivated your research that you described in the introduction. If appropriate, mention any alternative explanation for your results and mention possible explanations for unexpected results.

Works Cited

This section is optional in the poster unless citations are used in the text. Include only those papers cited in the text, and do not cite a paper unless you have read it yourself. Cite all of your references in text and list them in the Literature Cited section, using a format from a major journal within your discipline.

Graphics

Illustrations, tables, figures, photographs, and diagrams should have unique identification numbers and legends. In the text, use the numbers to refer to specific graphics or pictures. In your legends, include a full explanation and, where appropriate, include color keys, scale, etc.

Colloquium Unbound

Space is limited for Colloquium Unbound entries and will be allotted on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Colloquium Unbound is an alternative option for presenting your research. Colloquium Unbound projects are artifacts that you create that represent the essence of your research. The form, shape, and content of the projects is up to you (within size limits). They should represent the work that you've done – the questions you've asked, evidence you've explored, and findings you've identified in your research work.

Size Requirements

Colloquium Unbound projects should fit into 1-1/2 square feet of horizontal space. They must be no taller than four feet and must be able to stand freely on a table without posing a safety risk.

Your Colloquium Unbound project must be accompanied by no more than one page of accessible text that helps explain your research.

What qualifies as a Colloquium Unbound project, you wonder?

This depends on you! These projects should push boundaries and engage people in learning more about what you learned from your research. Claymation video, graphic novels, 3-D representations, a board game... the possibilities are nearly endless. As long as your project complies with the size and safety regulations outlined earlier, we want to include it. (Note that posterboard projects will not qualify for inclusion in Colloquium Unbound.)