

# 2017 Student Research and Scholarship Day (SRSD) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

## Q: **When can I start signing up and where do I do it?**

A: Simply visit <http://researchday.uscb.edu/> and click on the registration button!

## Q: **How do I choose a mentor?**

A: The mentor might actually choose you, or you may reach out to a **full-time professor** at USCB that works/teaches in your topic area of interest. You might have started researching this topic as a project in a class, or you may already be participating in undergraduate research with this professor.

## Q: **What does a mentor do?**

A: While that depends on the student and the topic, the mentor should serve as an editor and advisor to help you develop your project to its fullest potential. The mentor can help you to focus the overall project into one of the specific categories of research and scholarship presented at SRSD.

## Q: **What are the categories?**

A: The categories occasionally change from year to year. This year's categories are: **Poster Presentations**

- *Hypothesis-Driven* — basic and applied research, testing a hypothesis using inferential statistics
- *Issue-Based* — Issue-based research is non-hypothesis based applied research, examining a socio-cultural, educational, political, health-related, economic, or technological issue
- *Descriptive* — Descriptive research is non-hypothesis based research guided by a question or set of questions
- *Innovation/Application* — Non-hypothesis driven project to develop a novel technique, algorithm, or procedural method for pedagogy, information processing, engineering, problem solving, or domain-specific best practices
- *Visual Arts* – Presentations of creative/artistic renderings

There is also a category for **Oral Presentations** of Student Scholarship in the Humanities.

## Q: **What is the format of the presentations?**

A: Other than the oral presentations and the visual arts, all presentations are currently *poster-based*. We encourage all students to create a poster that is sized at 4 feet (48 in.) wide by 3 feet (36 in.) tall. There are several poster templates (one for each poster category) on the website to help you with this. (See *next page for more information*.)

**Q: How do I make a poster for SRSD?**

**A:** An easy way to to start with one of the templates from the SRSD website. These are PowerPoint files that have been formatted as one big "slide" sized at **4 feet (48 in.) wide x 3 feet (36 in.) tall**. You can lay out electronic graphics (e.g., pictures, graphs, etc.) with appropriate text. Try to pick a font that is visible from **3 feet away** from a poster; we recommend nothing smaller than a 24-point font. Be sure to arrange a time for your mentor to look over and approve your work—he or she will be able to make valuable suggestions so that you will have the best poster possible for SRSD!

**Q: How do I get my poster printed?**

**A:** Once a final electronic version has been approved by your mentor, you will need to save the PowerPoint poster as a PDF file that, like the PowerPoint slide, is also sized at 48" wide x 36" tall. After saving as a PowerPoint file, choose **File > Save As**, and when prompted to choose the output format, choose **PDF (\*.pdf)** and save under the filename **Lastname\_Firstname.pdf** (replacing *Lastname* and *Firstname* with your own last and first names). This will output the poster as a print ready PDF.

**NOTE:** In the process of converting your file to a PDF document, it is possible that PowerPoint may have shifted text and/or graphics around. Thus, before you submit, open the PDF in Acrobat (or other PDF viewer), and CAREFULLY look over the entire file to be sure that the PDF looks EXACTLY the way that you want it to look when printed. It is this final PDF document that you will submit online (instructions will be provided the SRSD website when the poster submission link has been made available).

**Q: But how does the poster get to the printer, and how much does that cost?**

**A:** We will submit the poster to the print shop electronically, and it will **COST YOU NOTHING!** If you look on the templates, we have been working with **Accurate Reproductions** in Bluffton, and they give us a nice discount as an event sponsor. In exchange for your having placed their sponsor logo on your poster, we pay all the costs. (*The sponsor logo has already added to each of the PowerPoint templates available on the SRSD website.*)

**Q: What happens to my poster afterwards?**

**A:** Your mentor may want to display it in your departmental area on campus, so please check with him or her before you decide to take your poster home with you.

**Q: What do I get for participating?**

**A:** Not only is Student Research & Scholarship Day a great thing to include on your resume/CV for getting a job or into graduate/professional school, but as an added incentive to participate, the winners for first, second, and third place in each poster category will receive **cash prizes** for their efforts.