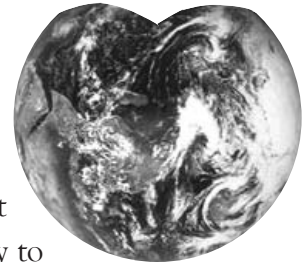


GRADUATE SCHOOL NEWS AND EVENTS

Graduate Students Present Findings at Research Day

Graduate students know that it's important to present their research at professional meetings, but they may be slightly nervous about attending a regional or national meeting without any experience in giving a presentation. One way to gain that experience and build confidence is to participate in on-campus meetings, such as Graduate Student Research Day.



Since 1995, Graduate Student Research Day has been held as an annual competition in which graduate students present their original research in an open forum. Degree-seeking graduate students in all areas of study are invited to present their original research and scholarship.

The competition is split into groups of similar research interests, which may vary slightly from year to year. In 2000, the groups were Humanities; Physical Sciences; Life Sciences; Physical Sciences, Engineering, Computer Science, and Mathematics; and Behavioral Sciences. Each group is then split into smaller sections of three to ten student presenters. Presentations in these sections are judged by a panel of two to four judges who are drawn from UAB faculty in the appropriate fields of study. First-, second-, and third-place winners in each section will receive a certificate and a cash award at a luncheon to be held on April 27, 2001.

The 2001 competition will be held in Rooms A, B, C, and D of the Hill University Center-Great Hall on Friday, April 20, 2001. Currently enrolled graduate students are encouraged to participate. Participants must be sponsored by a member of the UAB faculty in the student's department and must complete an abstract form, available at the Graduate School web site (www.uab.edu/graduate) in January 2001.



Graduate School, Hill University Center Suite 511
1400 University Blvd., Birmingham, AL 35294-1150
205-934-8227, 800-975-GRAD (4723)
<http://www.uab.edu/graduate>

Graduate School Calendar: January-March

JANUARY

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
8	9	10	11	12 13
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

FEBRUARY

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28		

MARCH

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

MPH, MSPH, DRPH, and MSN students: Check with your Graduate Program Directors for other deadlines, which differ from those of the Graduate School.

January 3: Deadline to Change Residency for Winter Term

January 13: 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Giving Professional Presentations

January 19: Application for Degree due for Winter graduates

January 26: 1-4 p.m., Writing Fellowship Applications, part 1

February 9: Deadline for defense meeting

February 9: 1-4 p.m., Writing Fellowship Applications, part 2

February 19: Deadline for approval version of thesis to Graduate School

March 2: Final papers due for Winter Plan II master's students

Winter Term Professional Development Classes

Professional Speaking for non-native English speakers
(Sat 9 a.m.-noon, GRD 701A-WN).

Professional Speaking for native English speakers
(Thur 5:30-8:30 p.m., GRD 701B-04).

English as a Second Language
(Wed 6-9 p.m., GRD 721-03).

Teaching at the College Level and Beyond
(Tues 6-8 p.m., GRD 705-02).

Specialized Instruction
(individual meetings, GRD 704).

Writing Fellowship Applications
(Jan 26 and Feb 9, 1-4 p.m., GRD 709-00).

Giving Professional Presentations
(Jan 13, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., GRD 707-WN).

See the UAB Class Schedule, visit the GRD web site (www.uab.edu/profdev), or contact Dr. Julia Austin at 975-6539 or jaustin@uab.edu for more details.

Thesis and Dissertation News: Regardless of the style guide chosen, certain UAB guidelines always take precedence. For example, tables always bear Arabic numerals, and figures always bear a single number and a title. On the other hand, some items are allowed only if they are shown in the chosen style guide (e.g., indented or bulleted lists, and boldface type in headings or references). Consult Lee Griner (5-6511, lgriner@uab.edu) or Randy Seay (4-0656, rseay@uab.edu) for more information.

Annual Opportunities for Funding

One of the most appealing aspects of some funding mechanisms is that they consistently set deadlines at the same general time each year. This is helpful because it makes the deadlines predictable. What's more, there are often two or even three deadline dates within a given year, thus offering graduate students and postdoctoral fellows more than one opportunity to apply for funding from the same program.

For example, the National Research Service Award (NRSA) Predoctoral Fellowship for Minority Students, available from NIH, provides up to five years of support for research training leading to the Ph.D. or equivalent research degree; the combined M.D./Ph.D. degree; or other combined professional degree and research doctoral degree in the biomedical, behavioral sciences, or health services research. This program has two annual deadlines: For 2001, they are May 1 and November 15.

Similarly, the NRSA for Individual Postdoctoral Fellows (also known as F32) has three deadlines in 2001: April 5, August 5, and December 5. Fellowships are awarded to promising applicants with the potential to become productive, independent investigators in fields related to the mission of the NIH constituent institutes and centers.

For more information on predoctoral and postdoctoral funding opportunities from NIH, visit their web site at <http://grants.nih.gov/training/extramural.htm>. For information on funding from other sources, log on to the Community of Science through the Lister Hill Library Virtual Desktop at <http://www.uab.edu/lister>. Bear in mind that the Community of Science lists funding opportunities in all disciplines: Humanities, Engineering, and Education, as well as traditional sciences.

Professional presentations are one of the most popular ways of communicating research findings to the public, both professional and at-large. However, many people are uncomfortable—downright afraid—talking in front of a group of people. To help allay this fear, the Graduate School's Professional Development Program offers two courses and a one-day workshop about presentations in the Winter term. There is a class for non-native English speakers, another class for native English speakers, and a one-day workshop for both native and non-native speakers. Don't let fear keep you in your seat; learn to stand up and speak!

Moving Away? Keep UAB Records Current

Many students graduate from UAB and go immediately to work in their chosen discipline. Often, this means moving away from the Birmingham area before all the final details of granting the degree are completed. However, if a problem arises and people at UAB are unable to reach the student, unpleasant consequences can occur. For example, a student might begin a postdoctoral fellowship, only to learn, two months into that fellowship, that UAB has not yet awarded the Ph.D. This could cause payroll problems at the postdoctoral institution.

For this reason, it is very important that students update their campus records—such as address, phone number, email—so that various school offices can contact the student if necessary. All students who anticipate moving within 90 days of the graduation date should fill out the Change of Address form, available in the Graduate School.

Everyone wants their moving experiences to be as painless as possible. You can eliminate one source of distress by keeping your student records at UAB up to date with current, correct information.

How s the Dissertation Coming?

Preparing a thesis or dissertation is tedious; no one can honestly say it's not. The research must be completed, the committee must be organized for the defense meeting, and then the final document must be submitted to the Graduate School for editorial review. Some students don't realize that the Graduate School has minimum requirements for accepting theses and dissertations. These requirements cover the most basic aspects of preparing the final copy of a scholarly document:

- Preliminary pages, such as the table of contents, must be complete.
- Line spacing must be basically correct.
- References must be cited in the style of the chosen style guide.
- Pages must be numbered.
- Figures and tables must be included in the proper fashion.

Failure to meet these requirements by the deadline may result in that student's graduation being delayed. *Theses and Dissertations: A Guide to Preparation*, published by the Graduate School and available at www.uab.edu/graduate/thesguid.htm, offers detailed instruction on the final preparation of these documents. Also, the Graduate School offers a free, two-hour seminar every term—Staying Afloat While Preparing a Thesis or Dissertation—which covers these requirements and other aspects of completing graduate study. Finally, Lee Griner and Randy Seay in the Graduate School offer individual consultations with students who are uncertain about the procedures for completing theses and dissertations. (Remember, though, that the Graduate School is not a software support company.)

In short, guidance is readily available, but the only students who benefit are those who seek it out and use it.

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