25th Annual Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference: Poster Presentation Information

Time and location. This year's conference will be held on ***Tuesday, April 20, 2027, from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in The Union West Faculty Lounge***. You may put up your posters beginning at 1:30 p.m. and must take them down by 5:00 pm. Students are expected to be at their posters from 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. to discuss their research and to answer any questions from the conference attendees.

Required materials. In order to have the program booklet printed in time for the conference, I will need the ***title and abstract*** of your presentation (including *your name* as you wish it to appear in the program and *your mentor's name*) no later than ***noon on Tuesday, March 23, 2027*.** If your poster is a collaboration, please include all participants' names, and distinguish who are authors only versus who will be presenting. Please note that your abstract should **be no longer than 150 words**. All information should be emailed to Emily Iffert at rettige@purdue.edu. *Please copy the faculty mentor you are working with on the submission email, so that they are aware of your submission.*

Best Poster Competition. For the Undergraduate Research Conference, we are going to be selecting one poster to win "Best Poster". *If you are interested in being considered for the "Best Poster", you will need to send a PDF copy of your poster to rettige@purdue.edu by April 13th. Only those that submit a PDF of their poster will be considered.* We will then allow people to do in-person judging of the posters on the day of the conference as well as virtual judging post-conference. The final winner will be selected through this judging process and will be announced within a week after the conference. A cash prize may be awarded to the Best Poster winner (though this is contingent on eligibility as determined by a review by the financial aid office). **Participation in the "Best Poster" competition is OPTIONAL**. The deadline to submit your PDF presentation is **noon on Tuesday, April 13, 2027**. More information for submission will be sent to participants as we get closer to the deadline.

Printing your poster. Posters can be printed for free in the Psychological Sciences Shop in PRCE 250. The shop staff will assist you. Because of the cost and time associated with printing posters, please make sure your poster is in its final version before getting it printed.

You should arrange a time for printing your poster with the shop by e-mailing them at agulik@purdue.edu. In order to accommodate all participants that are presenting in this and other spring conferences, please allow enough lead time to schedule your printing. Posters will be printed on a first come, first served basis. **You may begin sending your poster to be printed beginning March 30th; you must email it to be printed NO LATER THAN April 12th to ensure it is printed by April 20th**. Once your poster has been printed, you will be notified where to pick it up. After that date, there are pay-to-print options in Hicks and WALC.

Poster Preparation. You should communicate with your faculty mentor about how to create your poster – many labs have a particular template or style they use. In addition, here is a website with poster templates of various types: https://www.posternerd.com/sciposters-templates

Posters can be printed on paper 48" wide X 36" height. I would suggest using an aspect ratio of about 1 to 3; that is, a length that is 1 1/3 times the width. The poster boards that will be set up in The West Faculty Lounge will accommodate this size. You can see examples of posters prepared by faculty and graduate students throughout the PSYC and PRCE buildings.

One way to generate the poster is to make one PowerPoint slide and set the slide size to 48” x 36”. Then, zoom in to do the work (using text boxes and pictures); zoom out to look at the whole thing. If you are pasting in figures, paste them in as pictures (use paste special), not as Excel or other objects. If you are working on a Mac, you will need to check the figures, fonts, and layout before printing—sometimes it doesn’t translate 100%. Make sure to leave at least a 1-inch boundary all the way around.

Feel free to use color but don’t overwhelm the reader. *Remember, too, that some people are color blind, so be sure to use something instead of, or in addition to, color (e.g., different symbols) when presenting your data*.

If you do not have complete results in time for the poster session, you may present expected or possible results. You can still use figures as long as you clearly label them as “expected” or “predicted”.

If you want to have a Purdue logo on your poster, you can download a logo from: https://marcom.purdue.edu/our-brand/logo/

Miscellany. Below are suggestions for preparing effective posters adapted without permission from materials previously circulated by the Society for Neuroscience.

Suggestions for Preparing Effective Posters

General Information

A poster presentation should be self-explanatory, allowing different viewers to proceed on their own while the author is free to supplement and discuss particular points raised in inquiry. The poster session offers a more intimate forum for information exchange than does the traditional spoken presentation, but discussion becomes difficult if the author is obliged to spend most of the time merely explaining the poster to a succession of visitors.

Before The Meeting

Title
Prepare a banner for the top of your poster indicating the title, authors, and affiliations. Lettering in the label should be at least 1 in. (2.54 cm) high.

Illustrations
Figures should be designed to be viewed from a distance, and should use clear, visible graphics. Although each figure should illustrate no more than one or two major points, figures need not be simple. The main points should be clear without extended viewing, but detail can be included for the knowledgeable viewer. Remember that the time spent at each poster figure is determined by the viewer, not by the presenter, as in the case of a slide presentation in a spoken session.

Each figure or table should have a heading of one or two lines in large type stating the "take-home" message. Detailed information should be provided in a legend below in smaller type. Because there is no text accompanying a poster, the figure legend should contain commentary that would normally appear in the body (Results and Discussion) of a manuscript. It should concisely describe not only the content of the figure but also the conclusions to be drawn. Details of methodology should be kept brief and should be placed at the end of the legend.

Layout

Arrange materials in columns rather than in rows. It is easier for viewers to scan a poster by moving systematically along it rather than by zigzagging back and forth in front of it. An introduction should be placed at the upper left and a conclusion at the lower right, both in large type. The sequence of illustrations should be indicated with numbers or letters at least 1 in. high, preferably in bold print.

You may find it convenient to have a separate section describing methods, but it is quite effective to include this information as part of the data presentation, as described above. Carefully chosen photographs of apparatus, or schematic diagrams of procedures, can convey a great deal of information about methods without much text. Most viewers will tend to skim or ignore long textual passages.