THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

Graduate School

Presents the professional development opportunity:

THREE MINUTE [DOCTORAL] THESIS EXHIBITION*

The Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition celebrates the exciting research conducted by Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) students. Developed by The University of Queensland (UQ), 3MT cultivates students’ academic, presentation, and research communication skills. The competition supports their capacity to explain their research effectively in three minutes and in a language appropriate for a non-specialist audience.

Doctoral students have three minutes to present a compelling oration on their dissertation and its significance. 3MT is not an exercise in trivializing or ‘dumbing-down’ research, but challenges students to consolidate their ideas and research discoveries and present them concisely to a non-specialist audience.

UTEP’s 2018 3MT Exhibition will include an on-campus preliminary competition, Thursday, March 8 from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m., followed by a public competition at the El Paso Museum of History on Thursday, March 29, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Eligibility:
Active UTEP PhD students who have successfully reached candidacy by March 28, 2018 are eligible. In the event a student defends after prelims on March 8, 2018, their invitation to the exhibition event on March 29 is contingent on their successful defence of the proposal. Professional doctoral students completing a major capstone project are also eligible after successfully proposing the project. Master’s students, postdocs, and graduates are not eligible.

To participate:
Eligible students must first participate in the preliminary competition on March 8th in order to receive an invitation to the public exhibition on March 29. The 3MT application portal will be available at www.utep.edu/graduate/funding.

Click here to see winning examples of the 3MT.
Click here to see the 3MT competitor guide.

Prizes:
- Winner–$500 Research/ travel grant**
- Runner-up– $250 Research/ travel grant**
- People’s Choice– $250 Research/travel grant**

*While “thesis” generally refers to master’s-level research projects in the U.S., the term includes doctoral dissertations in much of the world. 3MT is for doctoral students only.
**Prize money will be dispersed for academic or professional travel or research related expenses. Winners must follow university travel policies.
Rules:
- A single static PowerPoint slide is permitted (no slide transitions, animations or 'movement' of any description, the slide is to be presented from the beginning of the oration).
- No additional electronic media (e.g. sound and video files) are permitted.
- No additional props (e.g. costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment) are permitted.
- Presentations are limited to 3 minutes maximum and competitors exceeding 3 minutes are disqualified.
- Presentations are to be spoken word (e.g. no poems, raps or songs).
- Presentations are to commence from the stage.
- Presentations are considered to have commenced when a presenter starts their presentation through movement or speech.
- The decision of the adjudicating panel is final.

Judging criteria:
1. Comprehension & Content
   - Did the presentation provide an understanding of the background to the research question being addressed and its significance?
   - Did the presentation clearly describe the key results of the research including conclusions and outcomes?
   - Did the presentation follow a clear and logical sequence?
   - Were the thesis topic, key results, research significance, and outcomes communicated in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience?
   - Did the speaker avoid scientific jargon, explain terminology and provide adequate background information to illustrate points?
   - Did the presenter spend adequate time on each element of their presentation - or did they elaborate for too long on one aspect or was the presentation rushed?

2. Engagement
   - Did the oration make the audience want to know more?
   - Was the presenter careful not to trivialize or generalize their research?
   - Did the presenter convey enthusiasm for their research?
   - Did the presenter capture and maintain their audience’s attention?
   - Did the speaker have sufficient stage presence, eye contact and vocal range; maintain a steady pace, and have a confident stance?
   - Did the PowerPoint slide enhance the presentation – was it clear, legible, and concise?

3. People’s choice:
   An important aspect of the competition is the People’s Choice prize. Following all presentations, the audience votes on who they thought gave the most convincing 3MT presentation (based on their understanding of the criteria outline above). A finalist can be the winner or runner-up and still receive the People’s Choice award.

Questions about 3MT may be directed to:
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