Spring Student Symposium 2016: General Presenter Guidelines

This handout and other resources are available at go/presenting

Symposium Day Schedule (Friday, April 15, 2016)
8:30-9:00 am   All Presenters Check-in
9:00-9:15 am   Welcome at Great Hall
9:15-10:30 am  Session I- Oral Presentations
10:30- 11:15 am Session II- Poster Presentations
11:15 am-12:30 pm  Session III- Oral Presentations
12:30-1:30 pm  Lunch for Presenters and Special Guests: Atwater Dining Hall
1:30-2:45 pm  Session IV- Oral Presentations
2:45-3:30 pm  Session V- Poster Presentations
3:30-5:00 pm    Session VI- Oral Presentations
4:45-5:30 pm    Closing Reception for all Presenters and Attendees, Great Hall

The details of this year’s program, with session titles and locations, will be posted in April on the URO Website at: go.middlebury.edu/sym (go/sym). We are hopeful that you will participate not only in your own session but in the entire schedule of activities.

Deadlines

☐ Wednesday, March 23: Submit the final version of your title, abstract, and list of presenters, with sponsor approval, in Ex Ordo (sym2016.exordo.com).

☐ As early as possible in April: Review all of your presentation technology. Media tutors are on duty in the Wilson Media Lab, Davis Family Library, from 1:00 pm to 1:00 am on Sunday through Thursday and from 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Friday. Please contact the media tutors at the following email address 24 hours before arriving at the Wilson Media Lab for an appointment: DigitalMediaTutors@middlebury.edu

☐ Monday, April 11: Final PowerPoint presentations must be uploaded in Ex Ordo (sym2016.exordo.com) or a copy brought to the CTLR in Davis Library to be uploaded. No further edits will be possible.

☐ Tuesday, April 12, and Wednesday, April 13: Rehearsal sessions with media and oratory tutors will be available in the evening in Library 230 for oral presenters. (See schedule online)

☐ Wednesday, April 13: Final Posters due to Cathy Ekstrom’s office by 5:00 pm (Bi Hall 330) and an electronic copy uploaded to Ex Ordo (sym2016.exordo.com) or brought to the CTLR in Davis Library to be uploaded.

Presenter Obligations and Information

Participation. If you need to withdraw your presentation from the Symposium, you may do so up until Wednesday, March 23, when final abstracts are due. After that date, you are expected to honor your commitment to prepare for and present at the Symposium.
Attendance. All presenters for the Friday sessions are expected to check in at the Great Hall in MBH at 8:30 am. Also, please arrive at the location of your session 10 minutes before the session start time to meet your moderator and other session presenters, and to ensure that technical support is in order. You are expected to participate in your entire scheduled session.

Attire. Student presenters are expected to dress in neat, professional attire for this event.

Preparation. Presenters are expected to work closely with their faculty/staff sponsor to prepare for the Symposium, and are encouraged to attend relevant workshops and practice sessions for preparation. You are expected to adhere to all deadlines and read any email updates sent from Undergraduate Research.

Guests: We encourage you to invite friends, family members, faculty and staff, and mentors to attend the Symposium.

Symposium Day Lunch: All presenters and their sponsors are invited to a special luncheon for presenters in Atwater Dining Hall. Presenters will receive their lunch tickets when they check-in at MBH on Friday morning at 8:30 am. Presenters may purchase lunch tickets for off-campus guests at the door for $7.00.

Closing Reception: All Symposium presenters and all Symposium attendees are invited to celebrate this event at our Symposium Reception from 4:45 to 5:30 pm in the Great Hall at MBH.

Advice from Previous Participants

- Practice with a friend AT LEAST once before the symposium -- I changed a lot of little things based on the feedback I got. Don't be bashful about asking people to watch.
- Present your methods and why your work is new and important! Sometimes the presentations just seemed a gathering of facts from secondary sources.
- Make sure you can discuss your research in a way that allows a general crowd to follow it (not just people in your specific discipline).
- Run ALL the information by your adviser in advance.
- Prepare early, and if you’re in a group, coordinate.
- Don’t just read or rehash information—engage with the audience. If you’re visibly excited about the material, your audience should get excited.
- Don’t don’t don’t read from notes or a prepared speech. People who just read off their work lost the audience early on. It is actually much harder to inject the necessary energy and variation into something read directly.
- Seriously—dress in "Smart Professional." You stick out like a sore thumb if you don’t!
- Invite friends; there’s nothing better than having friendly faces in the audience.
- Think of it as a chance to share your work with friends, not as a test you need to pass or be the best at. It’s a celebration, not a competition.
- Practice, practice, but still sound lively and spontaneous. It’s hard to find the medium balance between conveying a tight, concise, eloquent explanation of your thesis and a robotic, regimented, memorized recitation, but it's worth a shot!