

2007 ACE ANNUAL CONFERENCE GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH PROPOSAL COMPETITION

CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 9, 2007

The Research Special Interest Group is very proud to be sponsoring its third annual graduate student research proposal competition, which will be held in conjunction with the **ACE Annual Meeting, June 15-19, 2007, in Albuquerque, New Mexico**. Please share this call with others in your unit to make sure that all of our graduate students are notified of this opportunity.

PROPOSAL CATEGORIES

- Graduate students may submit FULL research proposals (**maximum of 20 pages**).
- Students may submit original research proposed as part of a thesis, dissertation, or another research project.
 - Please indicate clearly the type of proposal (thesis, dissertation, or another research project) being submitted.
 - Graduate students must be listed as the principal investigator on any research proposal that is not part of a thesis or dissertation.
 - Only **two proposals per institution** are allowed to be submitted for competition.

SUBMISSIONS GUIDELINES

- **Submit electronically** in *.pdf format at jdmler@uark.edu.
 - Proposal components include Contact Information; Problem Statement; Brief Background/Status of Previous Investigation; Purpose and Objectives; Basic Assumptions/Delimitations or Scope of Investigation; Methods (IRB, Design, Population/Sample, Instrument, Data Collection, and Data Analyses); References; and Committee Members/Co-Investigators. Each section is detailed below.
- 1. **Contact Information**
 - a. Principal investigator's name, mailing address, phone number, fax number, and e-mail address; if other investigators are included in the proposal, provide all investigators' contact information.
 - b. Research proposal title is an accurate representation of the study.
- 2. **Problem Statement**
 - a. Provide a statement of the situation and/or problem being proposed.
 - b. Problem statements of pertinent interest to the agricultural communications profession, including teaching, research, and outreach activities, are encouraged.
- 3. **Brief Background/Status of Previous Investigations**
 - a. Clearly articulate the theoretical/logical framework for your study.
 - b. Provide a brief background of previous research leading up to the proposed study.
 - c. Use correct citations (*APA Publication Manual, 5th Edition*) in the text body.
- 4. **Purpose and Objectives**
 - a. Describe the purpose of the proposed research study.
 - b. Enumerate the research objectives necessary to complete the purpose.
 - c. If applicable, provide hypotheses to be tested.

5. **Basic Assumptions/Delimitations or Scope of Investigation**
 - a. Describe underlying assumptions/delimitations that may impact the proposed study.
 - b. Describe the scope of the investigation.
6. **Methods**
 - a. **Design:** Describe the proposed research design (Quantitative—quasi-experimental/experimental; Qualitative—participant observation/naturalistic/content analysis) in sufficient detail, including any threats to internal and external validity.
 - b. **Population/Sample:** Provide detailed descriptions of the population's characteristics, sampling procedure, sample type, and sampling error.
 - c. **Instrument:** Provide accurate descriptions of research instruments proposed, scales of measurement, validity (field tests, panel of experts, etc.), and reliability (post-hoc, test type—alpha, split half, etc.) tests.
 - d. **Data Collection:** Explain procedures for data collection including timeline, procedures for handling non-response, follow-up procedures, and expected response rates.
 - e. **Data Analyses:** Describe the proposed statistical treatments for all collected data.
7. **References:** Provide a selected list of references used to develop the proposed study.
8. **Appendix**
 - a. Provide evidence that a university-issued Institutional Review Board (IRB) process was completed (IRB forms may be attached to your proposal), or provide the date when IRB approval was requested for the proposed study.
 - b. Provide sample surveys, questionnaires, interviewing protocols, etc., if appropriate for the proposed study.
9. **Committee Members/Co-Investigators:** Provide the full contact information for thesis or dissertation committee members, including designation of committee chair, or provide full contact information for co-investigators in other research proposals.
- **Format**
 - **Maximum of 20 pages** beyond the initial Contact Information page.
 - Use *APA Publication Manual, 5th Edition* style in all situations.
 - Applicants are encouraged to develop all sections outlined above in one document, save the file as a *.pdf document, and send it as an e-mail attachment.

Awards Selection Process

- The **Outstanding Graduate Student Research Proposal** will be selected using the following format:
 - Proposals must be submitted by the deadline date.
 - At least two ACE Research SIG Committee members will evaluate each proposal independently, using the [Scoring Rubric for Graduate Student Research Proposals](#), prior to the ACE Annual Meeting. Winning submissions will be announced at the meeting.

Submit Research Proposals by e-mail to jdmler@uark.edu.

See you in Albuquerque!