Abstract Guidelines (by Discipline Area) – National Council on Undergraduate Research guidelines

Abstract guidelines for **humanities, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics**:

1. **Clearly state the central research question and/or purpose of the project.**
2. **Provide brief, relevant scholarly or research context (no actual citations required) that demonstrates its attempt to make a unique contribution to the area of inquiry.**
3. **Provide a brief description of the research methodology.**
4. **State conclusions or expected results and the context in which they will be discussed.**
5. **Include text only (no images or graphics)**
6. **Be well-written and well-organized.**

Abstract guidelines for **visual arts**:
* Given that the NCUR Abstract Guidelines ask for information that is not completely consistent with artistic practices, this is how the requirements should be translated.

1. **Clearly state the central research question and/or purpose of the project.** Provide an artist statement.
2. **Provide brief, relevant scholarly or research context (no actual citations required) that demonstrates its attempt to make a unique contribution to the area of inquiry.** In the statement, cite your influences and inspirations: other established artists; movements that are referenced or serve as inspiration; political/ cultural/ social issues that the work responds to; personal events, adventures, medical diagnosis; etc.
3. **Provide a brief description of the research methodology.** What techniques were used? It could be as basic as oil painting on primed canvas, or a more in-depth explanation of the experimental process.
4. **State conclusions or expected results and the context in which they will be discussed.** What did you learn? What was successful? What are things to be addressed in future pieces? How does this piece fit into your portfolio or future works?
5. **Include text only** (no images or graphics)
6. **Be well-written and well-organized.** If there are multiple areas covered with a unique influence that alters the interpretation of the work, speak more to one or two components of your "research" in depth: was the work a response to Art History? Or was the focus the experimental process? While it is assumed you

will very briefly respond to all of these requirements, it is also expected that only a few will be the central focus of your statement.

1. Visual Arts presenters are required to upload three examples of work. For works in progress, you may substitute images of the work being submitted with images of past works that are representative of the artwork to be exhibited at NCUR 2025.
2. If a video or performance documentation, no sample should exceed 2 minutes.

Abstract guidelines for **architecture**:

1. **Clearly state the central research question and/or purpose of the project.** What is it that you wish to study? This could be a building typology (i.e. the energy consumption of single family homes vs. duplex units or efficiency of one floor vs. two floor office) or it could be the evolution of a building typology, building material, building system, building technology, a place or an architectural theory.
2. **Provide brief, relevant scholarly or research context (no actual citations required) that demonstrates its attempt to make a unique contribution to the area of inquiry**. Describe why this research is relevant today. What has changed, is changing, or is likely to change in the future and how might this change effect people, place, design aspirations, building technology, etc.?
3. **Provide a brief description of the research methodology.** How will you conduct the research (i.e. comparative, historic, evolutionary, inductive [analyze the observed phenomenon], deductive [verify an observed phenomenon], qualitative, experimental, simulation, case studies)
4. **State conclusions or expected results and the context in which they will be discussed.** What do you expect the results to be or what do you expect to learn and what is likely to be the significance of your findings?
5. **Include text only (no images or graphics).** We recognize this may be difficult when you are researching a "thing" in the built environment but do your best.
6. **Be well-written and well-organized.** Follow the script you have been given (#'s 1, 2, 3, & 4 above in this order). Restate each topic and be specific in your response to each. Use complete sentences (bullet points can be used following a statement but never alone). Read what you have written out loud to check to see if it sounds clear and concise. Reread what you have written 24 hours later to identify typos, poor word usage, incomplete sentences, etc. Read what have written to a friend and ask them if they can restate what you

are proposing. If you are the least bit uncertain take what you have written to the writing center.

Abstract guidelines for **performing arts**:

1. **Clearly state the central research question and/or purpose of the project. A statement discussing compositional or performance aspects of the work.** Why did you compose this work or choose this work to perform? What aspects of music are you exploring?
2. **Provide brief, relevant scholarly or research context (no actual citations required) that demonstrates its attempt to make a unique contribution to the area of inquiry.** How does the composition and/or performance advance the development of your creative output?
3. **Provide a brief description of the research methodology.** Provide a brief description of the musical work from a compositional or performative standpoint.
4. **State conclusions or expected results and the context in which they will be discussed.** How did the composition of the work or preparation for the performance affect your musical understanding and output?
5. **Include text only (no images or graphics).** Include a link (box, google drive, dropbox, etc) to a recording of the work and a score of the work if required for performance.
6. **Be well-written and well-organized.**

Student Presentation Format Options

Film (scheduled in a series of other presentations with a 12-minute presentation (to include sharing of the film) with 3 minutes of Q&A) (15-minute presentation): This category allows students to present research or creative projects through short film. Note: Please plan to pre-record the short film so it can be shared in a digital format during the presentation. The length of the film to be shared should fit within your presentation timeslot. Presentation guidelines are available here. A PowerPoint template is available here.

Visual Arts Displays (max size of 30-inch width x 40-inch height unrolled or unfolded for displaying on a wall and 20 inches width x 20 inch height x 20-inch depth for displaying a 3D piece on a pedestal) (scheduled to be on display during the Elevating the Arts on Monday): Students can showcase their research or creative projects through visual arts displays, which may include paintings, sculptures, photography, digital art, and other visual media. **Note:** Express mail shipping (e.g. UPS and FedEx only - do not plan to use USPS) and insurance costs to and from the conference will be the responsibility of the presenter and specific instructions will be provided by our exhibit services manager as required by the

convention center. Please consider standard shipping box sizes and weight restrictions when considering the piece (e.g. https://www.fedex.com/en-us/shipping/packing/supplies/boxes.html or https://www.ups.com/us/en/shipping/how-to-ship-package.page) as oversized boxes can result in extremely high rates. Link to CUR Artwork Display Agreement and Waiver.

Oral Presentations (scheduled in a series of other presentations with a 12-minute presentation with 3 minutes Q&A) (15-minute presentation): These are traditional presentations where students present their research findings or projects to an audience using slides or other visual aids. Typically, each presenter is allotted a specific time slot for their talk, followed by a Q&A session. Presentation guidelines are available here. A PowerPoint template is available here.

Performances (scheduled in a series of other presentations with a 12-minute presentation (to include sharing of live version or recording of performance) with 3 minutes Q&A) (15-minute presentation): This category allows students to present research or creative projects through performances, such as musical performances, theatrical acts, dance routines, spoken word, or other artistic expressions. **Note:** If live performance is preferred, we encourage students to provide needed musicians, actors, dancers, readers, etc. as presenters and/or co-presenters as part of their submission since local talent is limited. Alternatively, please plan to pre-record the performance piece so it can be shared in a digital format during the presentation.

Poster Presentations (max size of 48" x 48") (included in a 50-minute poster session): Poster sessions involve displaying a visual representation of the research project on a large poster board including a mixture of text with tables, graphs, and pictures to present your findings in a visually interesting and accessible way. This will serve as a tool to prompt discussion with colleagues during a 50-minute poster session. Students stand by their posters to discuss their work with conference attendees and answer questions. Items typically included: Title, Authors, Abstract, Introduction, Materials & Methods, Results, Discussion, Acknowledgments, and References. **Note:** NCUR will provide the poster boards and push pins to hang the posters. A picture of the poster board is available here.

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Discipline Areas

If your area is not named below, or if more than one area applies, select the one most closely related to your work. Please review the entire list before choosing your area.

Business and Entrepreneurship
- Business
- Economics

Education
- Education

Engineering and Architecture
- Architecture, Construction Management, and Interior Design
- Engineering

Health and Human Services
- Exercise Science and Nutrition
- Health and Human Development

- Nursing and Public Health
- Physical/Occupational Therapy and Speech Language Pathology
- Social Work and Human Services

Humanities
- Art History
- English and Literature
- Film/Photography Studies
- Gender, Ethnicity, Diversity, or Cultural Studies
- History
- Linguistics and World Languages
- Philosophy, Ethics, and Religious Studies

Interdisciplinary Studies
- Interdisciplinary Studies

Mathematics and Computer Science
- Computer Science
- Mathematics

Natural and Physical Sciences
- Biochemistry
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Environmental Science and Sustainability
- Geography/Geology
- Physics and Astronomy

Social Sciences
- Anthropology and Archaeology
- Communications
- Criminology/Criminal Justice
- Law and Legal Studies
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Sociology

Visual and Performing Arts
- Dance
- Music
- Theatre/Drama
- Visual Arts