

NSU Undergraduate Research Day

April 23, 2025

Northeastern State University's Undergraduate Research Day Steering Committee and the Office of Academic Affairs are pleased to host the **23rd Annual NSU Undergraduate Research Day**. This event honors excellence in research, scholarship, and creativity by showcasing the endeavors of undergraduate students and their faculty mentors. The event will be held on **Wednesday, April 23, 2025** in the University Center Ballroom.

Undergraduate students are invited to participate. The eligibility criteria for participants and projects are as follows:

Eligibility of Participants

1.
 - a. The student must be a CURRENT NSU undergraduate or have graduated no earlier than December 2024, OR
 - b. A student who graduated in May 2024 may participate if the student submits the draft presentation to the URD Steering Committee no later than **October 31, 2024**.
2. Current undergraduate students must be in good academic standing.
3. The student must have engaged in his/her research/scholarship/creative activity under the supervision of a faculty mentor(s).

Eligibility of Projects

1. The project may be from any field of study.
2. The project does not have to be the result of work in a formal course but work done in a formal course is eligible.
3. The project must involve the significant creation, synthesis and/or application of knowledge.
4. The project must demonstrate intellectual rigor, innovation, and acceptability in the field of study.
5. If the student researcher graduated in December, the student must have made substantial progress toward completing his/her project prior to graduation.
6. NSU students who complete projects at other institutions (for example, summer internships) may enter those projects under the following conditions:

- a. The student has written permission from the faculty mentor at the other institution;
 - b. Appropriate credit is given to major contributors from the other institution; and,
 - c. The student secures a faculty mentor from NSU to assist with and monitor preparation of the presentation.
7. The project application must be signed by the faculty mentor(s).

Application Process

Students may apply in one of three categories:

1. Outstanding Scholar – The student(s) will submit an application, a formal research paper, a PowerPoint slide of a potential poster, and a copy of the Abstract. One Outstanding Scholar and one runner-up will be selected for each undergraduate college based on the research paper. The Outstanding Scholar will be required to give an oral presentation at Undergraduate Research Day (failure to give the oral presentation will result in forfeiture of prize money). The runner-up will be asked to do a poster presentation, though if there are fewer than three Outstanding Scholars, the runners-up may be required to give an oral presentation instead. The PowerPoint slides for all other applicants in this category will be automatically entered in the Poster Presenter category described below. This application with the faculty mentor(s) signature must be submitted in hard copy. The research paper, the PowerPoint slide, and a copy of the Abstract must be submitted electronically as email attachments.
2. Poster Presenter - The student(s) will submit an application, a PowerPoint slide of their poster, and a copy of the Abstract (a research paper is NOT required in this category). This application with the faculty mentor(s) signature must be submitted in hard copy. The PowerPoint slide and a copy of the Abstract must be submitted electronically as email attachments.
3. Panel Discussion – The student panel members will submit ONE application and a copy of each paper to be presented. The application and all papers must be submitted together. See the application form for requirements for panels.

The application forms (one for categories 1 and 2, (a different form for category 3) can be found at: <https://offices.nsuok.edu/research/NSUUndergraduateResearchDay.aspx>.

Please be sure you submit the correct application form. **The deadline for receipt of all application materials is 12:00 noon on Friday, March 28, 2025.**

Screening of Projects

Each student's work in the Outstanding Scholar and Poster Presenter categories will be evaluated by a committee of 3-4 faculty from the student's college. The faculty evaluators have been chosen to represent the academic disciplines and scholarly methodologies of the college. Panel Discussions will be evaluated by a special committee of faculty familiar with this type of presentation. While specific judging standards may vary from college to college, all committees adhere to two general criteria:

1. Research and creative work will conform to the generally accepted standards of scholarship of the area of study.
2. The research and creative work will adhere to the accepted ethical standards of the academic disciplines. This may require the approval of the NSU Institutional Review Board (IRB) and/or the University Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). Any project which utilizes human subjects must receive approval from the IRB prior to collecting data. Any project which utilizes animals must receive approval from the IACUC prior to collecting data. Participants will be required to submit the IRB or IACUC approval letter with their project. IRB information and forms may be found at <https://offices.nsuok.edu/irb/default.aspx>. IACUC information and forms may be found at:
<https://academicaffairs.nsuok.edu/FacultyResources/iacuc.aspx>.

NOTE: PLAGIARISM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. The author of any paper plagiarized in part or in whole will be disqualified from Undergraduate Research Day and reported to the faculty mentor.

Awards

Honored scholars will present their projects at Undergraduate Research Day (failure to present will render the student ineligible to receive prize money). One student from each college will be selected as the Outstanding Scholar from their college and will give an oral presentation of their scholarly activity at a special symposium. In addition, the runner-up in the Outstanding Scholar category, as well as Poster Presenters, will be selected to display their work in poster format. Outstanding Scholars' papers and abstracts of all Posters presented will be printed in the URD Program. Panel discussion titles; names and

affiliations of the chairs, participants, and respondents; and title of the papers will also be published in the URD Program.

All students who present projects at Undergraduate Research Day will receive a certificate of participation. Outstanding Scholars will receive a trophy, and the student will be awarded a \$200 cash prize. An additional \$50 cash prize and a plaque will be given to the Outstanding Scholar selected as Best Speaker by a panel of judges. The runner-up in the Outstanding Scholar category in each college will receive a plaque and a \$100 cash prize. All poster presenters and panel participants will receive a certificate. All posters will be automatically entered into the competition for the Sponsor's Award for Best Poster: \$100 cash prize for First Place, \$75 cash prize for Second Place, \$50 cash Prize for Third Place. There will also be a \$100 cash prize given to the poster presenter receiving the most votes for the Students' Choice award. Other cash prizes may be awarded and will be announced at a later date.

Please Note

Students will NOT have the opportunity to edit abstracts or papers prior to publication in the printed program. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that the student and the faculty mentor(s) carefully proofread both the application and the abstract/paper prior to submission.