



Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools

An Affiliate of the Council of Graduate Schools

2022 MAGS Three Minute Thesis Competition

What is a three-minute thesis (3-MT[®])? Oral communication of a student's research to an educated layperson is often lacking in graduate programs. The [University of Queensland](#) developed the 3-Minute Thesis[®] where students summarize their research in 3 minutes using pre-determined guidelines. The format is one where students make a presentation in less than 3 minutes and a panel of judges score each student to determine the top 2 awardees. MAGS members select the People's Choice Award by voting for their favorite!

MAGS is sponsoring a 3-MT[®] competition to be held during the 2022 Annual Meeting, scheduled for April 6-8, 2022, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Student participants must be nominated by member institutions according to the specified deadlines. Participants will compete on the final day of the meeting; awardees will be selected and announced at that time. If the MAGS meeting moves to a virtual platform, the competition will also be held virtually (details for participants would be posted at that time).

Institutional Guidelines:

Only MAGS member institutions, in good standing, are eligible to compete.

- The institution must hold its own 3-MT[®] competition. Institutions may not nominate a student who did not compete in a local competition.
- The institution must register their competition with the [University of Queensland](#).
- Students enrolled in either Master's and Ph.D. programs may compete. A student's program of study must contain an original research project. The degree program need not formally require a thesis or dissertation, however the presentation topic must cover the original research project.
- One nominee per institution is allowed. Nominations include the nomination or place holder form and power point slide (if choosing to use one).
- Participants must be an enrolled student at some point during the academic year, including the previous summer, in which the MAGS competition is held.

Nomination of a Student Competitor:

- Only the official who supervises graduate education (e.g. graduate dean, director) may nominate a student for competition.
- Nominate a student as follows:
 1. Complete and submit the [MAGS 3-MT® Nomination Form](#) (Google Forms link) by March 4, 2022.
 2. If the institution has not held their 3MT® competition by the deadline, please check “Yes” to the question, “Is this a Placeholder Nomination?” and follow the instructions on the nomination form. The name of the participant will need to be sent to 3mt@mags-net.org by March 14, 2022.

Competition Rules:

- One single static PowerPoint slide is permitted, but not required. Slide transitions, animations or ‘movement’ of any description of the slide content is not allowed.
- No additional electronic media (e.g., sound and video files) are permitted.
- No additional props (e.g., notecards, scripts, pointers, costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment) are permitted.
- Presentations are limited to 3:00 minutes maximum and competitors exceeding 3:00 minutes are disqualified.
- Presentations are to be spoken word (e.g., no poems, raps or songs).
- Presentations are considered to have commenced when a presenter begins through movement or speech.
- Participants will be broken into groups for judging purposes.
- There will be one preliminary round of judging with the top 2 choices selected from each group to advance to the final round of judging.
- The top 2 choices from each group will present again in the final round. At least one judge from each group will then review/rate those presentations to determine the top 2 awardees. MAGS members will vote on the People’s Choice award from this group.
- The decision of the judging panel is final.

Judging Criteria:

- Competitors will be evaluated and ranked by a judging panel guided by the Judging Matrix.

Questions? Contact: 3mt@mags-net.org