FAQ: How to Apply to Participate in the Student Scholar Showcase

Q1: What is the WKU Student Scholar Showcase?

A: The WKU Student Scholar Showcase is an annual event held on WKU's campus where students present their research or creative activities.

Q2: How do I apply to participate in the Student Scholar Showcase?

A: Students must submit an abstract summarizing their research or creative activity. Each student can serve as the primary author-presenter on one presentation. Students should submit their abstracts online using the online portal: https://www.wku.edu/showcase/abstract/. Students should work with their faculty mentors to create the abstract.

Q3: How do students find a faculty mentor for their research project?

Students are responsible for identifying and securing a faculty member as their mentor before submitting an abstract. To find a mentor, students can reach out to professors in their department whose expertise aligns with their research interests or consult academic advisors or program coordinators for recommendations.

Q4: What should the abstract include?

A: The abstract is a concise, one-paragraph summary (200 words or less, avoiding special characters) that covers (The focus on these elements may differ depending on the discipline):

- Presentation title

- Presentation type (e.g., poster, oral paper, video, or pre-taped performance)

- An introduction outlining the research question, project goal, or intent

- The methods or approach employed

- Key results or findings

- A discussion of the significance and conclusions

Q5: What types of presentations are accepted?

A: Presentations can take the form of an oral paper, a poster, a pre-taped performance, or a video. You must choose one form only to present your work.

Q6: The submission form asks for Primary Author-Presenter. What does this mean?

A: The Primary Author-Presenter is the student who presents the work at the Showcase and is the main point of communication with Showcase organizers. In addition to presenting at the Showcase, the Primary Author-Presenter is also responsible for communicating information sent by Showcase organizers to their co-presenters and/or co-authors.

Q7: Can other students be involved in the presentation?

A: Yes, up to four additional students can serve as co-presenters. Students and faculty/staff who contributed to the project but are not presenting can be listed as co-authors (up to six).

Q8: Do I need my faculty mentor's approval to submit my abstract?

A: Yes. After the student submits the abstract using the online portal, the faculty mentor will be notified to review and approve it. Only abstract submissions approved by faculty mentors will be considered by the Showcase's scheduling committee.

Q9: Can I modify or delete my submission?

A: Yes, students can modify or delete their submissions before the submission deadline by logging in with their Net ID and password here: https://webapps.wku.edu/showcase/ Revisions will be sent to the faculty mentor for re-approval.

Q10: What is the deadline to submit an abstract?

A: The submission deadline for the 2026 Student Scholar Showcase is March 2, 2026.

Q11: When will I be notified about the acceptance of my submission?

A: Students will be notified by Showcase organizers regarding the acceptance of their submissions after the review process concludes in March. Only abstracts approved by the mentor will be accepted for scheduling.

Q12: What if my abstract is accepted but I cannot present at the Showcase?

A: **Students should ensure that they are available for the entire period of the Showcase on Saturday, April 11, 2026, 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM, before submitting an abstract**. Once your abstract has been approved by your mentor and accepted for scheduling by the Showcase committee, should you realize you cannot present on the day of the event, please inform the Office of Research and Creative Activity immediately so your abstract can be removed from the program. This is very important as it affects every other participants' presentation time and location. Students with accepted abstracts who do not present at the Showcase and fail to notify the Office of Research and Creative Activity may be prohibited from participating in future conferences.