Undergraduate Research Day 2027

Ways to Present Your Work

Undergraduate Research Day offers four ways for students to share their work: oral presentations, poster presentations, and — new this year — creative writing readings and an art exhibition.

Faculty mentor approval is required for every category. As with all Research Day submissions, presented work should reflect a significant, sustained project — for example, a body of work developed over a semester or longer, a piece created through a substantial process or revision, or a project connected to a course of independent study. A single-sitting exercise (a quick ceramic bowl, a one-off sketch, a short in-class writing prompt) is not the level of work Research Day is intended to showcase. Faculty mentors should confirm that the scope and effort behind a piece are appropriate for presentation before approving it.

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1. Oral Presentations

Standard lecture-style talks using PowerPoint (or similar slides).

- **Format:** 10-minute presentation, followed by Q&A
- **Setup:** A projector, screen, and podium will be provided in the presentation room
- **Best for:** Research with a clear narrative arc — question, methods, findings, and conclusions — that benefits from a structured, timed explanation

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2. Poster Presentations

Traditional hanging-style posters displayed around the first floor of the building during the poster session.

- **Format:** Presenters stand by their poster and discuss their work with attendees as they circulate
- **Display:** Posters are hung using wall-mounted screws and clips, provided by Undergraduate Research Program — any poster size is fine (if you want to use the poster for a conference or other poster presentation you might check the conference guidelines.)
- **Tables:** Tables with tablecloths are also available for trifold displays or other artifacts you'd like to display alongside your presentation
- **Best for:** Research that can be summarized visually — data, figures, and key findings at a glance — with the presenter available to answer questions in depth

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3. Creative Writing Readings — New for 2027

Presenters share original creative writing — fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, or other literary work — through a live reading.

- **Format:** Presenters read their work aloud to an audience for at least 8–10 minutes
- **Setup:** A podium will be provided in the presentation room.
- **Best for:** Original literary work meant to be experienced aloud, where voice, pacing, and delivery are part of the presentation

4. Art Exhibition — New for 2027

Presented alongside the poster session, this exhibition invites visual artists to display their 2D, 3D and digital artworks and share their inspiration and process, and to answer questions from attendees during the session.

Requirements

- Most mediums are accepted.

Size and Display Limits

Type	Limit
Flat / wall work	No larger than 24" (width) × 36" (height) (*We can adjust this for presentation at UM but this seems to be what is accepted at other conferences. Please contact Dr. Tidwell for possible adjustment in sizing.*)
Sculptural work	12" × 12" footprint maximum; displayed on pedestals
Video work	Screen viewing only — no installation pieces

Preparation

- **Ready to display:** Artwork must arrive fully assembled and ready to display.
- Work must be in appropriate condition for installation.
- Any matting, framing, or hanging hardware must be completed ***before*** the art is delivered — this cannot be done on-site.
- For video work, the artist must provide their own display equipment (TV, computer, DVD projector, sound devices, and/or headphones).
- If a specific layout is important to how a piece should be displayed, please note this when submitting your work.

Questions?

Please reach out to the Undergraduate Research Day organizers (tidwellc@montevallo.edu) with any questions about eligibility, setup, or display logistics.