UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
2024 THREE-MINUTE THESIS COMPETITION

The Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) is an international research communication competition developed by The University of Queensland (UQ). Graduate students have three minutes to present a compelling explanation of their thesis and its significance. The 3MT challenges students to consolidate their ideas and research discoveries so they can be presented concisely to a non-specialist audience.

Since 2008, enthusiasm for the 3MT concept has developed rapidly and competitions are now held in over 600 universities and institutions across 65 countries. Graduate students from all disciplines are invited to participate in the 2024 campus-wide 3MT competition. The UMD competition will take place in two rounds. The first-round college-level competitions occur in early March, and the campus-level final-round competition occurs on April 17, 2024.

To learn more about how to create a successful 3MT presentation, please attend a 3MT workshop and or schedule a consultation with the Graduate School Writing Center.

First-Round: 5 College-Level 3MT Competitions

The First-Round College-Level 3MT Competition takes place in early March and will be organized at the college-level. Based on college enrollment and past participation in the 3MT competitions, the 12 colleges and schools are grouped so that there will be a total of **five College-Level 3MT competitions**:

> CMNS will hold their own 3MT competition
> ENGR will hold their own 3MT competition (will require a separate ENGR registration)
> ARHU and BSOS will hold a joint 3MT competition
> ARCH, EDUC, INFO, JOUR will hold a multi-college competition
> AGNR, BMGT, PLCY, SPHL will hold a multi-college competition

Each College-Level Competition will name college-level winners and select who will advance to the final-round competition. Each college-level competition will be able to advance 2, 3, 4, or 5 students to the final round. The number of students who advance from each first-round competition will depend on the size of the college-level competition and will be determined after the 3MT registration has closed.

3MT Registration

This registration will automatically enter you into your College-Level competition. (ENGR students will register on a separate ENGR 3MT site). Shortly after registration, students will receive instructions about the college-level competition which will be held in early March.

Final-Round: Campus-Level 3MT Competition

A total of 20 students will advance to the Final Round. The Campus-Level Final-Round Competition which will take place on **April 17, 2024 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm**. An interdisciplinary panel will name up to six campus-level winners. Campus-level winners will receive a cash prize as well as the professional video production of their 3MT presentation. Winners will be considered for nomination to participate in other 3MT competitions. One post-candidacy winner will be selected by the Graduate School to compete in the Universitas 21 3MT Video Competition in October 2024.

Prizes:

- First-round college-level prizes are determined by the college(s).
- Final-round campus-level winners will receive $1,000 each.

IMPORTANT DATES:

February 28:	Deadline to register to compete
March 6:	For virtual competitions, your 3MT Video and slide are due. If first-round is in-person, competition date will be set by the colleges.
March 6-31:	College-Level First-Round Competitions (virtual, hybrid, and/or in-person)
March 31:	College-Level competitions name winners & select who advances to the final round
April 1- April 16:	Semi-finalists prepare for the Final-Round
April 17:	Final-Round Competition (in-person) in Stamp Student Union (1:00 – 3:00 pm)
April 19:	Campus-Level Winners announced

Eligibility Requirements

- Eligible students are doctoral and master's students who are doing dissertation or thesis research.
- Research presented in the 3MT must have been conducted while a student at the University of Maryland.
- Students should be able to present some conclusions and impacts from research already conducted, not merely a description of research to be conducted.
- Students must prepare a three-minute presentation and a single static slide as outlined in the "3MT Rules" below. The first-round college level competition will be held either in person or virtually. Please contact your college to learn more about the first-round competition. The final-round will be held in person on April 17, 2024.

3MT RULES AND JUDGING CRITERIA
(based upon rules developed by the University of Queensland)

RULES:

- Orally present a three-minute presentation.
- Provide a single static PowerPoint slide along with the 3MT video (no slide transitions, animations or 'movement' on the slide is permitted).
- Presentations are to be spoken word (e.g. no poems, raps or songs).
- No reading cues are permitted. No edits or splices are allowed.
- No additional electronic media (e.g. sound effects, embedded video clips) are permitted.
- No additional props (e.g. costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment) are permitted.

JUDGING CRITERIA:

- Communication Style: Was the thesis topic, research significance, results/impact and outcomes communicated in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience?
- Comprehension: Did the presentation provide an understanding of the background and significance to the research? Did the presentation clearly describe the impact and/or results of the research?
- Engagement: Did the presentation make the audience want to know more?

RESOURCES:

The Graduate School Writing Center is available as a resource for students and colleges.
- Students can schedule a one-on-one consultation with a Writing Fellow to discuss ideas for a 3MT presentation.
- Colleges and Schools can contact Director Linda Macri (lmacri@umd.edu) to schedule a 3MT workshop for interested students at your college.

One Button Studios: Students have an option to use one of the One Button Studios (OBS) that are available across campus. A One Button Studio (OBS) is a simplified recording studio that gives users the ability to create a high-quality video recording without any previous video production experience. UMD's One Button Studios provide everything needed to create a polished video project. Using an OBS is not a requirement for the 3MT Competition.

Please view the 3MT Webpage for the most up-to-date list of 3MT contacts at your college/school, and to view past 3MT winners!   Your college or school may provide additional resources or training to assist students with creating a successful 3MT.

CONTACT:

Please direct questions to Program Manager Robyn Kotzker (rkotzker@umd.edu / 301-405-0281).