



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND 2021 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 2021 campus-wide 3MT competition. The UMD competition will take place in two rounds. This year, due to pandemic-related restriction, both rounds of the University of Maryland 3MT competition will be based on video submissions.

Students who are interested in learning more about how to create a successful 3MT presentation, please complete this [3MT Interest Form](#). We will provide you with information about 3MT workshops and other resources available that will help you plan and create a strong 3MT presentation.

We invite all students to compete in the campus-wide 3MT competition which will place the during Spring semester.

First-Round: 5 College-Level 3MT Competitions

To compete in the first-round college-level competition, please complete this [3MT Registration](#) by **February 22, 2021**. This will automatically enter you into the college-level competition and you will receive instructions from the Graduate School on how to submit your self-made 3MT video entry by the **March 1, 2021** submission deadline.

The first-round competition will take 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
- 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 of the competitions listed above can name up to four students to advance as one of the 20 semi-finalists.

Final-Round: Campus-Level 3MT Competition

Semi-finalists will advance to the campus-level final-round competition which will take place in April. An interdisciplinary panel will name up to six winners. The six campus-level winners will receive a cash prize as well as professional support producing a revised 3MT video. Campus-Level winners will also be considered for nomination to participate in other 3MT competitions. A post-candidacy winner will be selected by the Graduate School to compete in the Universitas 21 International 3MT Competition in October.

2021 THREE-MINUTE THESIS COMPETITION (Continued)

Prizes

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

Eligibility Requirements

- Eligible students are doctoral and master's students who are doing a dissertation or thesis.
- Research presented in the 3MT must have been conducted at 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 video with no edits and a single static slide as outlined in the "3MT Rules" below.

3MT RULES AND JUDGING CRITERIA

(based upon rules developed by the University of Queensland)

RULES:

- A three-minute self-made video must be submitted for the competition. No edits or splices are allowed. No reading cues are permitted in the frame.
- A single static PowerPoint slide is to be submitted along with the 3MT video (no slide transitions, animations or 'movement' on the slide is permitted)
- 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.
- Presentations are to be spoken word (e.g. no poems, raps or songs).
- Presentations are limited to precisely 3 minutes. Any video exceeding the time limit will be disqualified.

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?

IMPORTANT DATES:

February 22:	Deadline to register to compete
March 1:	Deadline to submit your self-made video and slide
March 15:	Each College-Level First-Round competition will select up to 4 Semi-Finalists
March 15-Apr 15:	Semi-finalists prepare for the Final-Round
April 15:	Deadline for Semi-finalists to submit their final version of their 3MT and slide
April 30:	Campus-Level Final-Round Competition will name 6 3MT Campus Winners

2021 THREE-MINUTE THESIS COMPETITION (Continued)

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.

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[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).