20th Annual Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference: Poster Presentation Information

**Time and location.** This year’s conference will be held on **Wednesday, April 20, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Stewart Center 218.** You may put up your posters beginning at 10 a.m. and must take them down by 2:00 pm. Students are expected to be at their posters from 11 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. to discuss their research and to answer any questions from the conference attendees.

**Required materials.** In order to have the program booklet printed in time for the conference, I will need the **title and abstract** of your presentation (including your name as you wish it to appear in the program and your mentor’s name) no later than **noon on Thursday, March 24, 2022.** If your poster is a collaboration, please include all participants’ names. Please note that your abstract should preferably be no longer than **150 words.** All information should be emailed to Becky Pittman at rpittman@purdue.edu.

**Printing your poster.** Posters can be printed in the Psychological Sciences Shop in PRCE 250. The shop staff can assist you. You should arrange a time for printing your poster with the shop by e-mailing them at psych-help@psych.purdue.edu. In order to accommodate all participants, please allow enough lead time to schedule your printing. (I would recommend scheduling a print time in the week prior to the conference.)

Posters can be printed on paper 24, 36 or 44” wide and any length long. I would suggest using an aspect ratio of about 1 to 3; that is, a length that is 1 1/3 times the width. Thus, recommended poster sizes are: 24 x 32, 36 x 48, or 44 x 56 inches. The poster boards that will be set up in STEW 218 will accommodate any of these sizes. Your decision on which size to use will be based on how much information you want to display. Most people use the medium (36 x 48) size. You can see examples of posters prepared by faculty and graduate students throughout the building.

**Poster Preparation.** You probably know all this stuff already but...

One way to generate the poster is to make one PowerPoint slide and set the slide size to one of the poster sizes mentioned above. Then, zoom in to do the work (using text boxes and pictures); zoom out to look at the whole thing. If you are pasting in figures, paste them in as pictures (use paste special), not as Excel or other objects. Caution: If you are working on a Mac, you will need to check the figures, fonts, and layout before printing—sometimes it doesn’t translate 100%. Make sure to leave at least a 1-inch boundary all the way around.

Feel free to use color but don’t overwhelm the reader. Also, keep in mind yellow is a very light color and should not be in your figures. **Remember, too, that some people are color blind, so be sure to use something instead of, or in addition to, color (e.g., different symbols) when presenting your data.**

If you do not have complete results in time for the poster session, you may present expected or possible results. (You can even make up figures as long as you clearly label them as “expected” or “predicted”.)

If you want to have a Purdue logo on your poster, you can download a logo from: [https://marcom.purdue.edu/our-brand/logo/](https://marcom.purdue.edu/our-brand/logo/)

**Miscellany.** Below are suggestions for preparing effective posters adapted without permission from materials previously circulated by the Society for Neuroscience.
Suggestions for Preparing Effective Posters

General Information

A poster presentation should be self-explanatory, allowing different viewers to proceed on their own while the author is free to supplement and discuss particular points raised in inquiry. The poster session offers a more intimate forum for information exchange than does the traditional spoken presentation, but discussion becomes difficult if the author is obliged to spend most of the time merely explaining the poster to a succession of visitors.

Before The Meeting

Title
Prepare a banner for the top of your poster indicating the title, authors, and affiliations. Lettering in the label should be at least 1 in. (2.54 cm) high.

Illustrations
Figures should be designed to be viewed from a distance, and should use clear, visible graphics. Although each figure should illustrate no more than one or two major points, figures need not be simple. The main points should be clear without extended viewing, but detail can be included for the knowledgeable viewer. Remember that the time spent at each poster figure is determined by the viewer, not by the presenter, as in the case of a slide presentation in a spoken session.

Each figure or table should have a heading of one or two lines in large type stating the "take-home" message. Detailed information should be provided in a legend below in smaller type. Because there is no text accompanying a poster, the figure legend should contain commentary that would normally appear in the body (Results and Discussion) of a manuscript. It should concisely describe not only the content of the figure but also the conclusions to be drawn. Details of methodology should be kept brief and should be placed at the end of the legend.

Layout

Arrange materials in columns rather than in rows. It is easier for viewers to scan a poster by moving systematically along it rather than by zigzagging back and forth in front of it. An introduction should be placed at the upper left and a conclusion at the lower right, both in large type. The sequence of illustrations should be indicated with numbers or letters at least 1 in. high, preferably in bold print.

You may find it convenient to have a separate section describing methods, but it is quite effective to include this information as part of the data presentation, as described above. Carefully chosen photographs of apparatus, or schematic diagrams of procedures, can convey a great deal of information about methods without much text. Most viewers will tend to skim or ignore long textual passages.