



UCR Grad Slam

Competitor Orientation

Orientation Goals

- Get to know Grad Slam!
- Encourage participation
- Become familiar with competition rules and regulations
- Understand Grad Slam judging criteria

For More Information and updates

Please go to our website:

<https://gsrc.ucr.edu/grad-slam-2025>

Follow us on social media:

#ucrgradslam

#gradslam



We are here to help!

- APRO staff to help!



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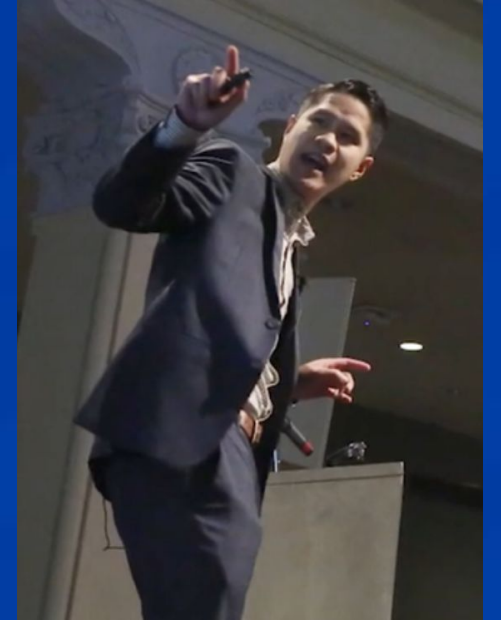


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What is Grad Slam?

- UC-wide public speaking competition
 - 3 minutes “elevator talk” to non-expert audience
- Professional development
 - Public speaking workshops
 - Feedback on presentations
 - Incentives for Humanities, Social Sciences and Arts students*
- Cash Prizes!



Grad Slam's Prizes*

- **UCR Grand Prize:** **\$5,000 Fellowship**
- **UCR 1st Runner Up:** **\$2,000 Fellowship**
- **UCR 2nd Runner Up:** **\$1,000 Fellowship**
- **UCR Audience Choice:** **\$1,000 Fellowship**
- **up to 8 Honorable Mentions:** **\$100 Fellowship**

- **UCOP Grad Slam Grand Prize:** **\$7,000 Fellowship**
- **UCOP 1st Runner Up:** **\$4,000 Fellowship**
- **UCOP 2nd Runner Up:** **\$2,000 Fellowship**
- **UCOP Audience Choice:** **\$1,000 Fellowship**

*UCR financial aid rules apply to all prizes



Grad Slam Schedule for 2025

Colleges
Nominate
students by

Feb 3

UCR
Semi-Final

Week of
March 10

UCR
Final

Week of April
9

UCOP Final
UC Center
Sacramento

April 29

Grad Slam Overview

UC System-Wide Event at UC Center in Sacramento

- April 29th
- UCOP Grad Slam



Who is eligible?

- Be currently enrolled full-time in UCR's Master's or Doctoral graduate programs in good standing (MD students are not eligible).
- Be no more than one year beyond normative time.
- Be enrolled through Spring quarter of the competition.
- Be available for in-person Semi-Final, Final and UCOP competitions.
- Not have been previously selected as a UCR Grad Slam Winner or selected as 1st Runner-Up, UCR 2nd Runner-Up, or UCR Audience Choice winner in the past year.



Preparation



Grad Slam coaching and feedback before preliminary competition

- Check our website for schedule



Presentation Guidelines



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Grad Slam Guidelines

New for
2025!

- “Elevator Talk” to non-expert audience
- 3 minutes max with only 3-second grace period
- Timing commences when student engages with audience
- **Maximum 1 static** contestant-generated PowerPoint slide; **no animations**
- Slide may not be created or edited by a professional
- Slide is optional!

Grad Slam Powerpoint Guidelines

- Slides must be in PowerPoint format; no Prezi or Google Slides
- You cannot use PPT animation effects
- Embedded video and audio files are not permitted,
- Must be set to landscape, 16:9 aspect ratio

Grad Slam Guidelines

- Images used in slides must be either public domain, intellectual property of the speaker, or fall under “fair use” provisions.
- In cases of collaborative research, the presenter’s contribution to the project must be salient and clearly specified.
- MIT’s Guide to Using Images
<http://libguides.mit.edu/c.php?g=176183&p=1158973>
- “Can I Use That Picture?”
<http://relativelycurious.com/can-i-use-that-picture/>

During In-Person Presentations

- You may have notes or a hard copy of your presentation
 - but we discourage you from using them
- Grad staff will control the computer and projector
- You will have a clicker to control animation

Grad Slam Guidelines

- Props may be allowed for in-person presentations (Semi-Final and Final round): must be cleared with staff
- No live animals, dangerous gases/viruses, etc. – use your common sense



During In-Person Presentations

- Time starts when you first engage audience
- 3 minutes TOTAL for presentation
- Yellow card at 10 seconds left
- Red card at 0 seconds left
- Red card continually held up: you have exceeded the 3 second grace period and points will be deducted.
- Judged live in-person



UCR Grad Slam Semi-Finals

- Semi-Finals will be in-person presentations.
- Contestants will upload presentation PPT slides ahead of time to Grad Division.
- Presentations will be live, in person.
- Judges will review in person.



UCR Grad Slam Finals

- Live, in-person, on stage with live-stream to wider audience.
- Must be present during entire event.
- Must check in at least 30 MINUTES before competition begins.
- Dress Rehearsal TBD



The Competition – Finals

Procedural differences from previous rounds when we get to the UCR Finals:

- Audience Choice Award: Audience members on live stream can select their favorite presentation via an online form.

THE JUDGING RUBRIC



Judges

- Distinguished judges with a wide variety of backgrounds
- Unique judges for every stage
- Bios will be on our website
- Judges will use the same rubric to judge all rounds of the competition

Rubric

- 5 points each for 6 criteria
 - Highest possible score: 30 points
- Point breakdown:
 - 5 = Excellent
 - 4 = Very Good
 - 3 = Good
 - 2 = Proficient
 - 1 = Poor



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Rubric

Sample Scorecard with 6 categories

- Clarity
- Organization
- Delivery
- Appropriateness
- Intellectual Significance
- Engagement

2023 Grad Slam Semi-Final Round Scorecard Group 1 Gold Judge #1				
INSTRUCTIONS				
Select your score for each presenter and category below by choosing a score from the drop-down list in each cell (1=Poor, 2=Fair, 3=Good, 4=Very Good, 5=Excellent, with half-points possible)				
SCORING CATEGORY	PRESENTERS			
	Student 1	Student 2	Student 3	Student 4
CLARITY Did the speaker provide adequate background knowledge to make the talk and the importance of the project understandable?	5 ▾	5 ▾	5 ▾	5 ▾
ORGANIZATION Did the presentation follow a clear and logical sequence?	5 ▾	5 ▾	5 ▾	5 ▾
DELIVERY e.g., pace, enthusiasm, confidence, body language, eye contact, and vocal range	5 ▾	5 ▾	5 ▾	5 ▾
APPROPRIATENESS Were the topic and its significance communicated in language appropriate to an intelligent, but non-specialist audience? (For example, did the speaker avoid or explain discipline-specific jargon?)	5 ▾	5 ▾	5 ▾	5 ▾
INTELLECTUAL SIGNIFICANCE Did the speaker explain why their project matters (for example, its significance to the academic discipline)?	5 ▾	5 ▾	5 ▾	5 ▾
ENGAGEMENT To what extent did the talk speak to your intellectual curiosity? Did it make you want to learn more about the topic?	5 ▾	5 ▾	5 ▾	5 ▾
	Student 1	Student 2	Student 3	Student 4
TOTAL SCORE	30	30	30	30
RANK	1	1	1	1
	JUDGE'S COMMENTS (shared with presenters)			
<i>*If the presenter is not using visuals, a score of 5 points indicates that you understood the presentation and it kept your attention perfectly, so no visuals were required; a score of 1 point indicates that visuals were needed in order for you to understand the presentation.</i>				

Scorecard: Clarity

- Did the speaker provide adequate background knowledge to make the talk and the importance of the project understandable?

Scorecard: Organization

- Did the presentation follow a clear and logical sequence?

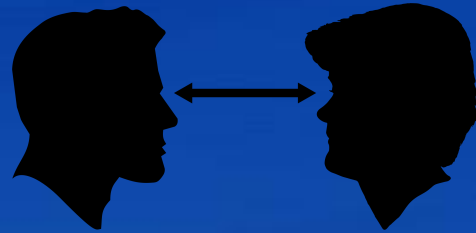


<https://www.clipartmax.com/max/m2i8i8K9i8i8G6K9>



Scorecard: Delivery

- Does the student's body language, eye contact, pace, and vocal range contribute to the presentation's effectiveness?
- Does the student deliver the talk without relying excessively on notes?
- Is the student's presentation style confident and enthusiastic?



Scorecard: Appropriateness

- Was the topic and its significance communicated in language appropriate to an intelligent, but non-specialist audience?
- Did the speaker avoid discipline-specific jargon or explain it when necessary?

Scorecard: Significance

- Does the student foreground why this project matters in his/her field?
- If the student presents on collaborative work, was the student's unique contribution clearly specified?

Scorecard: Engagement

- To what extent did the talk speak to the judges' intellectual curiosity?
- Did it make the judges want to learn more about the topic?

Scorecard: Comments

- Judges' opportunity to tell the speakers how to improve their presentation styles.
- We ask them to specifically highlight one area where the speaker does well and one where they can improve.

LAST FEW THINGS...

Finally...



UCOP Finals

- The UCR Grand Prize winner will receive all-expense-paid trip to the UC Center in Sacramento for the UCOP Finals in April 29th
- The UCOP Grand Prize winner will receive \$7,000

Presentation Resources

- UCSB's "Grad Slam Advice: How to Design a Winning Presentation"
<http://archive.gradpost.ucsb.edu/life/2014/2/20/grad-slam-advice-how-to-design-a-winning-presentation.html>
- UCB Professor Jonathan Shewchuk's "Giving an Academic Talk"
<https://people.eecs.berkeley.edu/~jrs/speaking.html>
- Explaining Quantum Computing to Kids, Students, and Professionals
<https://youtu.be/OWJCfOvochA>

Questions?

- Academic Preparation, Recruitment and Outreach
 - apro@ucr.edu
 - apro.ucr.edu
- <https://gsrc.ucr.edu/grad-slam>



The End