

Spotlight on Student Research

Call for Proposals

Deadline: March 2, 2026

Cash prizes awarded to top presenters!

Do you have a research project, creative work, or class paper you are proud of? Come share it! The Spotlight on Student Research Symposium is your chance to showcase your ideas, present your work, and meet other student researchers.

The symposium takes place **Friday, April 10, 2026 (9 am–5 pm)** and features innovative student work from across the College of Liberal Arts. All presentations are held on campus and open to fellow students, faculty, and guests.

You can submit your work in one of the following formats:

Presentation Options

Paper Presentations

Share your research in a 10-minute talk. This can include a paper or research project you have already completed.

Poster Presentations

Turn your research into a visually engaging poster. Poster sessions are interactive and conversational and allow you to discuss your project one-on-one or with a small group.

Renditions

Showcase your creative work. Choose a format such as performance, spoken word, storytelling, or other forms of artistic expressions. Renditions should be 5–10 minutes long.

Not sure if your project fits? Talk with your professor, faculty mentor, or department Spotlight liaison (see contact information below). They are happy to help you decide.

Guidelines

Abstract Guidelines (Papers & Posters)

To be considered, submit a short abstract (150–300 words, single-spaced, 12-point) that explains:

- What question, problem, or topic your project addresses — and why it matters
- How you conducted your research or approach
- Your findings (or expected findings if still in progress)
- Your conclusion or next steps for future work

Research in progress is welcome — it does not have to be finished.

Abstract Guidelines (Renditions / Creative Work)

If you are submitting a creative or performance-based project, your 150–300-word abstract should include:

- A brief artist statement
- Context and inspirations behind your work
- Your format or medium (performance, visual art, spoken word, etc.)
- What you hope audiences take away from the work

If Your Proposal Is Accepted

Paper Presentations

- 10-minute live presentation
- Assigned panel and time slot
- Slides, handouts, or short media clips allowed
- Presented in person

Poster Presentations

- 5-minute presentation + discussion
- Must be presented in person
- Poster should include:
 - UTA College of Liberal Arts branding
 - Your name, major, faculty sponsor (if any), and project title
 - Limited color palette (about 3 colors recommended)
 - Accessible design and high-resolution images

Rendition Presentations

- 5–10-minute performance or creative presentation
- Basic staging support provided
- The Spotlight team will work with you to make your presentation successful (note: specialty lighting or complex technical setups may be limited)

Judging & Prizes

Faculty judges from across the College of Liberal Arts will evaluate presentations using a simple rubric focused on:

- Content
- Delivery
- Impact

Top presenters receive a **\$150 cash prize**.

Key Dates

- February 18: Conference Success Q&A: Applying to a Conference, 12 pm (noon), Carlisle 201
- March 2 (11:59 pm): Proposal deadline
- March 16: Decision notifications sent by email
- March 25: Conference Success Q&A: Tips for Conference Presentations, 12 pm (noon), location TBD
- April 10, 2026: Symposium Day

How to Submit

Ready to participate? Start by completing the [Spotlight online submission form](#).

Faculty Spotlight Liaisons

Art and Art History	Dr. Lucy Bartholomee	lucy.bartholomee@uta.edu
Communication	Dr. Mark Tremayne	tremayne@uta.edu
Criminology and Criminal Justice	Dr. James Kelsay	james.kelsay@uta.edu
English	Dr. Daniel Kasper	daniel.kasper@uta.edu
History and Geography	Dr. Paul Conrad	paul.conrad@uta.edu
Linguistics and TESOL	Dr. Marie Bissell	marie.bissell@uta.edu
Modern Languages	Dr. Ignacio Ruiz-Perez	iruiz@uta.edu
Music	Dr. Emily Eubanks	emily.eubanks@uta.edu
Philosophy and Humanities	Dr. Eli Shupe	eli.shupe@uta.edu
Political Science	Dr. Kayla Canelo	kayla.canelo@uta.edu
Sociology and Anthropology	Dr. Adam Johnson	adam.johnson2@uta.edu
Theatre Arts and Dance	Dr. Sebastian Trainor	sebastian.trainor@uta.edu

You may also contact the **Spotlight Committee** at liberalarts@uta.edu.