NCUR ABSTRACT GUIDELINES

Not all papers will be competitive and/or applicable for some of the conferences on the Suggested Conferences list. The National Conference on Undergraduate Research has liberal guidelines and requirements. All interns must prepare an abstract using the NCUR guidelines.

An NCUR abstract should:

- Be no more than 450 words in length. Typical abstracts are 250-300 long.
- State, in clear terms, the central research question and the purpose of the research.
- Provide a brief discussion of the research methodology.
- State conclusions, either final or anticipated.
- Be well organized.

All abstracts will undergo a rigorous review by a panel of faculty reviewers. Abstract reviewers will evaluate submissions based on the criteria listed above and will assess overall merit within the context of the specific academic discipline.

There is a limit of two abstracts submitted per primary researcher.

Before you submit:

- Complete the abstract using appropriate upper and lower case letters.
- The title will appear in the program exactly as you type it, so check your spelling.
- Enter first name, middle initial and last name of author and co-authors.
- Enter faculty mentor in parentheses.
- Enter the department and institution where the research was conducted.
- It is a good idea to work on your abstract with your mentor’s participation ahead of the actual submission process. That way you can simply cut and paste it into the abstract body text box when you get to that step. It is difficult to generate the optimal abstract in real-time during the submission process.

SAMPLE ABSTRACT

Abstract Title:

Pertussis Immunity in a Sample Population of Pregnant Women

Name of author(s), (Faculty Mentor), Department, Institution and Institutional Address:
Dana L. Heiner, Rachel Bown (Kara Hansen-Suchy) Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences, Weber State University, Ogden, Utah 84408
Abstract:
Recent outbreaks of pertussis, more commonly known as whooping cough, and a steady increase of nationwide reported cases, have brought attention to a once common childhood disease. Prior studies have demonstrated that mothers with immunity to pertussis will transfer a comparable amount of immunity to their newborns, giving them some protection until immunizations can begin. In consideration of this, it is important to determine if pregnant women have detectable levels of immunity to Bordetella pertussis. Blood samples were taken from ninety-four pregnant women, age twenty-five and older, to measure their levels of IgG to the pertussis antigen. Participants were also given a short survey regarding their pertussis immunization history. The testing was performed using an ELISA method specific for the pertussis IgG antibody. Only forty-five percent of the participants tested positive for the antibody, which was much lower than expected. In addition, a high percentage of the participants could not recall when they had last received a pertussis vaccination. These results suggest a need for public awareness and education about pertussis and the options for vaccination. This is crucial in preventing the spread of pertussis, not only for the general public, but particularly for mothers and their newborn children.