2025 Hunter Student Research Conference:
Call for Proposals and Proposal Submission Guidelines

Questions? Email hsrc@virginia.edu

The Hunter Student Research Conference (HSRC) is a student-led conference at UVA's School of Education and Human Development. It provides opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to gain valuable experience proposing, preparing, and presenting their research in a supportive environment.

The conference is named in honor of **Louise Stokes Hunter, Educ '53**. Dr. Hunter was the first Black woman to graduate from the University of Virginia. After completing her doctorate, Dr. Hunter returned to Virginia State University, where she spent her career mentoring Black students, particularly Black women, in math and physics.

To submit to HSRC 2025, please submit to this Qualtrics link beginning **November 4, 2024**. Submissions are due by **January 22, 2025**.

We are planning to host the 2025 Conference in a hybrid (both in-person and online) format to encourage participation from all on-grounds and online students. It will be on **Friday March 28, 2025.**

We accept three types of research formats: empirical, theoretical, and literature reviews. When submitting, you will be asked to indicate which of three presentation formats you are interested in: paper session, poster session, and/or research-in-progress showcase (RIPS). Please also indicate whether you prefer to present in-person or online.

HSRC Submission Categories

Research Type

We are accepting submissions for three research types:

- **Empirical** -- Original research using qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods. Proposals for action-based research focused on improving educational practices are also welcomed and encouraged within this category. Proposal should be no longer than 1500 words, excluding references. View a sample proposal [here](#).
- **Theoretical** -- Theoretical submissions use methods that are primarily critical, conceptual, or have a significant historical perspective. Research proposals should follow the conventions of its field (e.g., philosophy, sociology, history, etc.). Narratives should be no longer than 1500 words, excluding references. View a sample proposal [here](#).
- **Literature Review** -- The literature review or meta-analysis proposal should be no longer than 1000 words (excluding references). We recommend discussing at least 10 peer-reviewed journal articles. The literature review or meta-analysis can focus on a topic or highlight methodology. Literature Review presentations will be 5-10 minutes long. View a sample proposal [here](#).

Presentation Formats

When you submit your proposal title page, you will be able to indicate your preferences for any or all of three presentation formats:

- **Paper presentation –** Authors verbally present a synopsis of a completed paper, followed by questions and discussion. Presentations are approximately 15 minutes in length for Empirical or Humanities-oriented submissions, or 5-10 minutes for Literature Reviews.
- **Poster session** – Authors prepare a poster summarizing a completed study, followed by one-on-one or small group conversations during an adjudicated poster session with faculty judges.
- **Research in Progress Showcase (RIPS)** -- Authors present their progress for an ongoing research study. Empirical Research presented in this format, including but not limited to action-based research, can be at any stage of the process, including before data collection or data analysis has begun.

Proposal Submission Process

STEP 1: Explore the HSRC Site
- ∉   The [HSRC site](#) can be viewed publicly.
- ∉   Use this site to gather additional information about the day of the conference, HSRC outreach events, and key components to prepare for your proposal.

STEP 2: Create Your Proposal Narrative
All proposals must include the following components:
- A title
- A fully blinded narrative for the proposal (see suggestions for structure and content below) which is tailored to an audience with only general knowledge of your area of educational research.
    - A narrative should include objectives, perspective(s) or framework, methods, data sources, findings, and significance of work.
        - Research-In-Progress proposals need not include all components.
    - A narrative should include references.
    - Please review the [additional guidelines](#) for creating a narrative on the following pages.
- A word count between 600-1500 words, excluding references.

STEP 3: Create Your Positionality Statement
- All proposals will include a positionality statement of three to six sentences in length in which presenters are asked to reflect on how their identities have impacted their research.
- For examples of positionality statements, please view [this document](#) and scroll to the end.

STEP 4: Submit Your Proposal

- Please [submit your proposal via the Qualtrics Link](#) by end of the day **January 22, 2025**.
- Answer all questions in the beginning including presenter information, research type, presentation type, presentation format, positionality statement, and a 50-word abstract.
- Upload your 600-1500 word proposal in a Word document (.doc or .docx)
    - Tables and figures are optional and words in them will <u>not</u> count towards the word limit.
    - Use the following naming conventions:
        - *KeyWordsofTitle_ResearchType*
        - For example:
            - WearingSensors_Empirical.docx,
            - DetrackinginVirginia_Humanities.doc,
            - EducativeCurriculum_LitReview.docx
        - Please do NOT put your name anywhere in the proposal document.

Additional Guidelines for Writing the Proposal Narrative

Reviewers may not be familiar with your area or discipline, so please tailor your proposal for a general audience.

All proposal types should include references and a word count.

Please limit your proposal to 600-1500 words (excluding references and tables/figures).

Suggested Outline for Empirical Proposal Narratives

1. **Introduction** – Description of the research problem framed within the context of a literature-based rationale and/or conceptual/theoretical framework.
2. **Purpose** – Include a purpose statement and/or research questions.
3. **Methods** – Include a description of each of the following *as they apply to the study*: the site or context, participant selection, interventions, data collection [primary outcome measure(s)] or data source (for secondary data analysis), data analysis methods, and methodological limitations.
4. **Results** – These may be tentative based on the preliminary data analysis. The main results of the study should be given. Comparative studies should include descriptive data with measures of dispersion and inferential statistical data where appropriate.
5. **Conclusions** – Summarize or emphasize the new and important findings of the study. The conclusion must be consistent with the study objectives and results as reported. Limitations should be addressed.
6. **Significance** – Address the scientific or scholarly implications of the study.
7. **References** – Include a complete list of references cited in the body of the proposal.
8. **Word Count** – Provide a word count (excluding references and tables/figures).

* Research in Progress Showcase (RIPS) proposals should include, at a minimum, an introduction and statement of purpose; description of methods/proposed methods; and a statement of significance. Initial findings may also be included, if applicable.

Suggested Outline for Theoretical Proposal Narratives*

1. **Thesis** – Address the overall purpose, objective(s), and/ or research question(s).
2. **Significance** – Address the scholarly significance/ implications.
3. **Procedures** – Describe the discipline, perspective(s), and/ or theoretical framework.
4. **Results** – Provide the main results of the study or findings of the literature review.
5. **Conclusions** – Discuss the substantiated conclusions or warrants for arguments/point of view within the context of the study or literature review.
6. **References** – Include a complete list of references cited in the body of the proposal.
7. **Word Count** – Provide a word count (excluding references and tables/figures).

Theoretical proposals should employ the standards employed by the author's specific area(s) of scholarship, such as conceptual, philosophical, sociological, historical, anthropological, or other areas of study. Not every standard is applicable or appropriate for every piece of non-empirical scholarly work.

Suggested Outline for Literature Review Proposal Narratives

1. **Thesis** – Address the overall purpose, objective(s), and/ or research question(s).

2. **Findings** – Summarize the literature that you reviewed. Consider discussing sample, context, methodology of studies as well as the main findings.
3. **Significance** – Based on the literature that you examined, what are the gaps in research that still need to be addressed? What did you discover in relation to your purpose and what are the next steps in the field?
4. **References** – Include a complete list of references cited in the body of the proposal.
5. **Word Count** – Provide a word count excluding references.

Additional Writing Resources

Educational researchers have called for the use of structured abstracts to communicate research designs and findings. While this proposal is longer, it can help to think of it as an extended structured abstract. In this way, you may use the structure of the suggested format to organize your writing. See the following links from Taylor & Francis and Educational Researcher for more details. The NAEd/Spencer Dissertation Fellowship Program also suggests a reference called On the Art of Writing Proposals, which may provide additional guidance.