



**College of Graduate Studies
2023-2024 Three Minute Thesis**

**AWARD WINNERS WILL BE RECOGNIZED IN AN AWARD CEREMONY TO BE HELD
IN SPRING 2024**

Entries due January 11, 2024 by 12:00 noon.



One Outstanding Achievement award and one Excellent Achievement award will be granted to the first and second place winners, respectively, in the Cleveland State University 3MT (Three Minute Thesis) Competition. Oral communication of a student's research to an educated layperson is often lacking in graduate programs. The University of Queensland developed a program where students summarize their research in 3 minutes or less using pre-determined guidelines. The format is one where students make a presentation in 3 minutes and a panel of judges scores each student to determine a final winner. Cleveland State University hosts a qualifying competition to decide which student will represent our university at the regional competition sponsored by the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools. The Cleveland State University 3MT (Three Minute Thesis) Competition will be held on Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 1 p.m. In addition, this is the only graduate student award that may be won in tandem with a second award.

There will be an Outstanding Achievement award and an Excellent Achievement award. The monetary prize associated with the Outstanding Achievement award is \$500 (five hundred dollars), and the monetary prize associated with the Excellent Achievement award is \$250 (two hundred fifty dollars). Student must have a GPA of 3.0 or better and be in good academic standing at the time of competition

To participate, eligible graduate students must complete the [3MT Registration Form](#) by noon on January 11, 2024. The registration form will ask for the the title of your thesis or dissertation as well as a letter, statement or e-mail from the chair of your thesis or dissertation committee certifying that you are eligible to participate. **Enrolled masters and doctoral candidates** who have achieved candidacy status (e.g., passed comprehensive/qualifying exams, successful dissertation proposal defense) by the date of the 3MT (February 21, 2024) are eligible to participate. Graduates from the previous summer are eligible to participate.

3MT RULES:

- A single static PowerPoint slide is permitted (no slide transitions, animations or 'movement' of any description, the slide is to be presented from the beginning of the oration).
- No additional electronic media (e.g. sound and video files) are permitted.
- No additional props (e.g. costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment) are permitted.
- Presentations are limited to 3-minute maximum and competitors exceeding 3 minutes are disqualified.
- Presentations are to be spoken word (e.g. no poems, raps or songs).
- Presentations are to commence from the stage.
- Presentations are considered to have commenced when a presenter starts their presentation through movement or speech.
- The decision of the adjudicating panel is final.

3MT JUDGING CRITERIA:

1. Comprehension & Content

- Did the presentation provide an understanding of the background to the research question being addressed and its significance?
- Did the presentation clearly describe the key results of the research including conclusions and outcomes?
- Did the presentation follow a clear and logical sequence?
- Was the thesis topic, key results and research significance and outcomes communicated in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience?
- Did the speaker avoid scientific jargon, explain terminology and provide adequate background information to illustrate points?
- Did the presenter spend adequate time on each element of their presentation - or did they elaborate for too long on one aspect or was the presentation rushed?

2. Engagement

- Did the oration make the audience want to know more?
- Was the presenter careful not to trivialize or generalize their research?
- Did the presenter convey enthusiasm for their research?
- Did the presenter capture and maintain their audience's attention?
- Did the speaker have sufficient stage presence, eye contact and vocal range; maintain a steady pace, and have a confident stance?
- Did the PowerPoint slide enhance the presentation - was it clear, legible, and concise?

Visit www.ThreeMinuteThesis.org to learn more. The link includes the rules and videos.