

Celebration of Scholarship & Learning Planning Guide

The Celebration of Scholarship and Learning represents an opportunity for the entire Towson University community to recognize the accomplishments of Honors College students. For students presenting at the conference it is a valuable way to integrate experiential learning or academic and career plans, to share this knowledge with others, and to learn from the accomplishments of one's peers.

The Celebration of Scholarship and Learning is held twice a year—once in early fall during Family Weekend and again typically in March or April. The majority of Honors students who present posters during these events have recently completed an experiential learning experience for which they will earn Honors credit, such as conducting research, studying abroad, or completing an internship.

About Poster Conferences

- A poster presentation is an excellent way to gain valuable experience presenting your work to peers, faculty and conference goers one-on-one. Many students present posters at their first conference as a way to learn about the conference experience without some of the stress of giving a talk in front of a big audience.
- Don't be fooled though—poster presentations are hard work and should be prepared carefully and presented professionally.
- Poster presentations have the unique advantage of bringing you eye-to-eye with your colleagues so take advantage of this. Ask for suggestions, opinions, etc., not only about your research but also about your career. Professors, other students, and many of the parents in attendance are great resources.
- An academic poster is a summary of your research or scholarly or creative project in a visually engaging way. It must be academically

sound, highlighting the context of your work (through photographs, maps, etc.), your methods, and results (with graphs, charts, photographs, etc.).

- The poster should be able to stand on its own as a clear, logical presentation of your work, without any explanation from you. Poster content should be typed.
- To do a poster presentation, you should prepare an “elevator speech” – a one to two- minute summary of your project that you could deliver to anyone during a typical elevator ride. Don’t wait for viewers to ask a question; say, “Would you like to hear about my experience?”

Creating Your Poster Using Towson University Computing Resources

- Use campus resources for designing and printing your poster such as the [Student Computing Resources large format printing guide](#).
- Visuals enhance the effectiveness of your presentation. Think in terms of graphic impact. However, simplicity and legibility are more important than artistic accomplishments. Charts, drawings photographs, and other illustrations are encouraged.
 - A heading should be prepared for your presentation using lettering at least two inches high for the title of the presentation. The name(s) of the presenter(s), and their institutional/ organizational affiliation(s) should also be included on the heading, but can be printed in a smaller font. You do not have to you the University logo, but if you choose to it can be [found here](#).
 - All lettering should be easily legible at a distance of 4-6 feet.
 - Edit your poster carefully for typographic or grammatical mistakes and image quality before the final print-out (use the print-preview function)
 - Here are some [examples of what the finished poster may look like](#).
- The Honors College will provide you with a 48” wide by 36” high trifold board to display your poster on a table during the conference. Boards will not be available on the day of the event, pick one up ahead of time.
- Optional: You may prepare a handout or bring a sign-up sheet where people can leave their contact information if they would like additional information about your presentation.
 - These can be one-page summaries of the presentation including your name and contact information for those who have questions for you later and any acknowledgements you wish to make.

Prepare about 50 handouts. Alternatively, you may wish to instead provide a sign-up sheet to record the names and addresses of attendees who might want more information, reprints, etc. Please bring your own clip-board for sign-up sheets. Tables may or may not be available.

- If you wish to bring electronic equipment to accompany your poster session, you must also bring a power source. Electrical outlets may not be available for your use.
- You may bring artifacts or items from your experience (common for study abroad presentations). But be prepared to hold them or affix them to your poster board as you may be assigned a spot at a table or an easel.

Recommended Online Resources

- [Developing a Winning Poster Presentation](#)
- [Creating an Effective Poster](#)
- [Giving an Effective Poster Presentation at an Event](#)

During the Conference

- Dress professionally and wear comfortable shoes.
- The table/easels where you will be presenting will be numbered, and you will be given your assigned spot at check-in.
- A few minutes before the poster session begins, you should stand in front of your posters but a little to the side.
 - Your body language should be open and inviting for people to stop when they walk by. This is not the time to take a break, eat, talk with friends, or yell at people to look at the poster. You should be welcoming and ready for people to engage with your poster.
- Most conference attendees appreciate a summary because otherwise they would have to read dozens of long posters. This frees them from having figure it all out themselves. After your summary, offer to answer questions. If you don't know an answer, admit it, speculate with the person, or ask what s/he thinks.
- As new viewers approach your poster while you are presenting your "elevator speech" or answering questions, be sure to make eye contact with the person and offer a smile to welcome them to the conversation.

- Be sure to speak loudly enough to be heard, slow enough that you think you're speaking too slowly, and without fillers like "um," or "like." It helps to practice on your friends and family first!
- Judges will be scoring your poster on the quality of your poster and your ability to integrate the experience with your academic course of study or career goals.

After the Conference

Be sure to update your resume with this presentation experience. The resource "[How to List Conference Presentations in a Resume](#)" outlines the steps to incorporating the presentation on your resume.

The judges and/or audience selection awards will be contacted via email and announced at a later date. Stay up to date with Honors social media and newsletter for the announcement!