Cal Poly Humboldt
Office of Research & Sponsored Programs

2027 CSU Student Research Competition

SHOWCASE YOUR WORK ON A STATEWIDE STAGE!

FREE TRAVEL • CASH PRIZES • CSU RECOGNITION



Apply by:
Jan. 29, 2027 11:59pm

Apply via Engagement Hub

Showcase your research, scholarship, or creative work on a statewide stage, compete for cash prizes, and gain valuable experience to strengthen your résumé or CV! Submissions may showcase recently completed or late-stage work. Approved travel costs will be covered.

To apply, submit a written summary of your research or creative project through Engagement Hub to Sponsored Programs Foundation (SPF) by Friday, **January 29, 2027 at 11:59pm.**

If selected as a delegate, you will compete at CSU San Marcos on April 15-17, 2027. Only students selected by The Planning Committee for Research, Scholarship and Creative Activities (PCRSC) may compete.

CONTACT: For questions, please reach out to Kumi Nakadate at jkn24@humboldt.edu

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Office of Research
& Sponsored Programs

CSU Student Research Competition

🔹 Quick Facts

🗓️ Humboldt Deadline	🗓️ Event Dates	📍 Location	💵 Travel Support	🔔 Notification
Jan 29, 2027 @ 11:59 PM	April 15-17, 2027	CSU San Marcos	SPF covers approved travel costs	March 1, 2027

🔹 Purpose

If you've completed (or nearly completed) a research project, class paper, creative work, capstone, or thesis, you may already have a strong submission for the CSU Student Research Competition! This is an opportunity to present work you've already done. The CSU Student Research Competition highlights student research, scholarship, and creative activity. Each CSU campus may nominate up to 10 student entries to advance to the system-wide competition.

🔹 Why participate?

Students selected as Humboldt representatives will:

- Receive structured feedback to strengthen how they present their work
- Represent Cal Poly Humboldt at the CSU-wide event
- Receive travel support to attend
- Gain experience presenting to a broad academic audience
- Build credentials for graduate school, scholarships, or career opportunities

🔹 Eligibility

Open to current undergraduate and graduate students, and alumni who earned degrees in Spring, Summer, or Fall 2026. Entries may be individual or team-based (only one presenter is guaranteed funding to attend the competition). Proprietary research is not eligible.

🔹 Submission Categories may include

•Behavioral, Social Sciences, and Public Administration
• Biological and Agricultural Sciences
• Business, Economics, and Hospitality Management

• Creative Arts and Design (includes rationale/context for performance/art)
• Education
• Engineering and Computer Science
• Health, Nutrition, and Clinical Sciences
• Humanities and Letters
• Physical and Mathematical Sciences
• Interdisciplinary

🔹 How to Apply

To apply, students must submit a two-page written summary of their project through InfoReady via Engagement Hub by **11:59 PM by Friday, January 29, 2027**. Submissions will be reviewed by the Planning Committee for Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities.

Submission information includes:

- Student email address
- Student mailing address
- Student ID number
- Name of faculty advisor
- Name of department
- Class standing (undergraduate or graduate)
- Category of submission (see above list)
- Cell phone number

🔹 Summary Requirements & Formatting

- The summary must include the name(s) of the student(s) and title of the presentation.
- Summary **may not exceed two single-spaced page** (12 pt font, 1" margins)
- Appendices (optional): **may not exceed 3 additional pages** for references, graphs, images, etc.
- IRB or IACUC approval letter required for research involving human or animal subjects

🔹 Summary should clearly explain (see attached rubric for more details)

- The purpose of your project
- Your approach or process (what you contributed)
- Key findings, outcomes, or creative contributions
- Why the work matters

🔹 Support available

The Office of Research can help you prepare a strong submission.

- Reach out for guidance on how to structure your summary
- Ask questions about whether your project is a good fit
- Get general advice on how to communicate your work effectively

🔹 Notification

Humboldt finalists will be notified by **March 1, 2027**

🔹 If Selected: Systemwide Competition

Selected students will be contacted by the campus coordinator to submit additional information in order to be eligible for the CSU-wide competition. Sponsored Programs Foundation will cover approved travel costs. Delegates will have an opportunity to rehearse and receive feedback prior to the competition. The competition will take place in person before a panel of jurors and an audience.

Presentation details:

- 10-minute oral presentation
- 5-minute Q&A session
- Separate undergraduate and graduate divisions (unless merged due to low enrollment)
- Use of visual aids encouraged (e.g., PowerPoint, media clips)
- Creative Arts entries may include a recording of the work; presentations should emphasize context and rationale

🔹 Final Presentation Judging Criteria

In addition to the written summary review criteria (clarity of purpose, appropriateness of methodology, interpretation of results, value of the work, and organization of the presentation - see attached rubric,) presenters will also be judged on:

- Presenter's ability to clearly communicate the work
- Responsiveness to juror/audience questions

🔹 Awards

Cash awards will be given to the top undergraduate and graduate presenters in each category. If divisions are combined, awards will be based on overall ranking. For sessions with five or fewer participants, only one award will be given.

🔹 Contacts

- For all questions, please contact the campus coordinator: Kumiye Nakadate – Research Development Support Coordinator 📧 jkn24@humboldt.edu | ☎ 707-826-4160

🔹 Common Proposal Pitfalls

- Research objective or creative value is vague or not clearly stated
- Importance of the project is not well articulated
- It's unclear what the applicant's role was in the project
- Jargon-heavy or overly technical language; proposal is not accessible to a generalist reviewer
- Unclear what's new or innovative; contribution to the field is not well articulated
- Project is not far enough along to present any findings
- Methodology is not well articulated

Rubric for Scoring 2-Page Research Summaries – *Last updated FY 2024 - 2025 (subject to change)

Criterion	Weight	1-2	3-4	5
Clarity of Purpose	20%	There is no identifiable central purpose, research question, or central premise to the proposal.	Central purpose is fairly clear, research question or central premise is not clear or specific enough.	Clearly stated central purpose, research question or central premise is clear and readily apparent to the audience
Appropriateness of Methodology (* or alternative mode of inquiry/rigor of approach, keeping in mind the requirements of the field)	20%	The methodology and/or design did not support the central purpose, hypothesis, or research question. Methodology was not clear or was lacking altogether.	Methodology and/or design were discussed, but there was not some difficulty understanding them. Methodology lacked some detail and did not clearly support the central purpose of the research.	Methodology and/or design for exploring the central purpose clearly stated; presented logical steps and/or appropriate information that clearly addresses the central purpose of the research with adequate detail provided.
Interpretation of Results (Criteria do not imply that the project must be data-driven; creative and non-empirical projects may earn high scores. For empirical projects: no data 1 point, preliminary data/data collection in progress 2-3 points, data collection and interpretation 4-5 points.)	20%	Very limited to no interpretation of results and a vague link to the central purpose, hypothesis, or research question.	Appropriate information or data were collected, described and linked to the purpose of the research; more in-depth analysis was needed to provide the audience with deeper or more complex insights.	Appropriate information or data were collected, clearly described, and interpreted with a demonstrable understanding and clear link to the purpose of the research; shows a thoughtful, in-depth analysis that provides the audience with insights.
Value of the Research or Creative Activity	20%	There is no discussion or very limited discussion of the value of the research. Research is not original nor significant inside or outside the discipline.	Value of the research is mentioned; insufficient discussion of the background and scope to be able to determine the value of this research. Research lacks originality or significance inside or outside the discipline.	Value of the research is persuasively argued within the established background and limitations of the research topic, or another persuasive way. The results are original and have significant contribution inside or outside the discipline.
Ability of the Presenter to Articulate the Research or Creative Activity and Organization of the Presented Materials	20%	Had difficulty communicating about the research project, proposal lacked organizational structure, was well outside of page limits.	Demonstrated ability to communicate about the research, but not always clearly; discussed some aspects of the research more cogently than others; somewhat organized.	Demonstrated ability to make complex ideas understandable using appropriate language and examples for readers both in and outside the discipline. Well-organized, clear, interesting, and easy to follow.