



CSU Student Research Competition – 2026

♦ Quick Facts

 Humboldt Deadline	 Event Dates	 Location	 Travel Support	 Notification
Jan 30, 2026 @ 11:59 PM	April 23-25, 2026	San Jose State University	SPF covers approved travel costs	March 4, 2026

♦ Purpose

The CSU Student Research Competition highlights exceptional undergraduate and graduate work in research, scholarship, and creative activity. This is your opportunity to showcase the project you're already working on! Each CSU campus may nominate up to 10 student entries to advance to the system-wide competition.

♦ Eligibility

Open to current undergraduate and graduate students, and alumni who earned degrees in Spring, Summer, or Fall 2025. Entries may be individual or team-based (only one presenter allowed at 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 30, 2026**. 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

♦ **Written Summary Review Criteria (see attached rubric for more details)**

- Clarity of purpose
- Appropriateness of methodology
- Interpretation of results
- Value of research or creative activity
- Organization and presentation of material

♦ **Notification**

Humboldt finalists will be notified by **March 4, 2026**

♦ **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,) 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.

♦ **Contact**

- For questions about the submission in InfoReady, or for programmatic or travel questions contact: Kumi Nakadate – Research Development Support Coordinator

 jkn24@humboldt.edu |  707-826-4160

♦ **Common Proposal Pitfalls**

- Research objective or creative value is vague or not explicitly stated
- 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



Cal Poly Humboldt
Office of Research
& Sponsored Programs

ANNOUNCING THE 40TH ANNUAL

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT RESEARCH COMPETITION



Trophies from 39th annual SRC, created by Makerspace students.



Apply by:
**Jan. 30, 2026
11:59pm**



Apply via
Engagement
Hub



Showcase your research or creative work, represent Cal Poly Humboldt, and shine at the state level! Students may showcase recently completed or late-stage work.

- Apply by submitting a brief project summary through Engagement Hub to (SPF) by **Friday, January 30, 2026 at 11:59pm.**
- This year's competition will be hosted by San José State University **April 23 to 25, 2026.** If selected as a delegate, SPF will cover your approved travel costs.

CONTACT: For questions, please reach out to Kumi Nakadate, SPF Research Development Support Coordinator, at jkn24@humboldt.edu