

DMU Mentored Research Closing Program Frequently Asked Questions

What is meant by research, scholarship, creativity?

Research, scholarship and creativity may be defined broadly as any self-directed work that enables individual students or small groups of students to explore an issue of interest to them and communicate the results to others. Depending on the topic, projects involve inquiry, design, investigation, research, analysis, scholarship, discovery, application, writing and/or performance. Each field may approach research, scholarship and creativity in its own way and with its own emphases.

Who is eligible to participate?

All DMU Mentored Research Program students and mentors are eligible to participate.

Does my project need to be course-based work, or can it be my own independent work or part of a project I did elsewhere?

As long as it is your work, it is eligible for consideration. If your work involves collaboration with another individual, you must obtain their permission to present at the DMU Mentored Research closing program. If your partner(s) is a DMU student, you may present your work together.

Does this need to be a presentation of a project created by a single author/researcher, or can collaborative projects be presented by more than one person?

Presentations may be either individually or collaboratively created; however, though there is no limit on the number of authors involved in a project to be presented, due to time constraints, no more than three students may make an oral presentation at the DMU Mentored Research closing program.

My project is still in progress, can I still present?

Posters and oral presentations may present findings of a work that is still in progress.

Can I apply more than one presentation if the projects are different? Can more than one proposal by the same student be accepted?

Yes to both. Each project and/or format must have its own submission. If you wish to have a poster and give an oral presentation you must submit the information twice, once for the poster and once for the oral presentation.

What is the application process for collaborative presentations, posters and performances?

Only one student or mentor will submit the poster and/or oral presentation.

How do I write an abstract? Can I get help with writing it?

You are strongly encouraged to work closely with your mentor in writing and editing your abstract. Your faculty sponsor may be willing to look over your abstract in advance and offer you help.

Can I choose the time to present? What if I have a conflict?

No. If you have a conflict with your scheduled time, please contact a member of the DMU Mentored Research closing program committee as soon as possible.

What do I do if something happens to my project between now and the DMU Mentored Student closing program? For example, I change my focus or title, or I don't get as far as I had hoped?

The unexpected is to be expected with research! Unless something major happens that would prevent you from completing your project, you do not need to inform the DMU Mentored Research closing program planning committee. When in doubt, consult your mentor.

Can I present if I do not have an IRB (Institutional Review Board) or IACUC (Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee) approval and my project involves (respectively) human or animal subjects?

If your project involves human or animal research, you must have obtained such approval, unless you are clearly presenting your work as a proposed project and make it clear that absolutely no research has yet been conducted. Such criteria would be met only in the poster sessions; anyone giving an oral presentation on a project involving human or animal research must have an IRB or IACUC approval. For questions, please contact the DMU Office of Research at 515-271-1445.

Can I invite people to attend?

Absolutely!

What if I need audio-visual support? What if my needs change? When do I need to let organizers know my AV needs?

Audio-visual support will be available at the DMU Mentored Research closing program. If your needs expand beyond a computer, projector, audio, and slide advancer/laser pointer, please contact DMU CME at cme@dmu.edu or 515-271-1596. Presentation and video files should be stored on USB drives. As reminder, if you prefer to use a MAC computer or have video files, arrangements must be made prior to the program and you will be responsible for bringing an adaptor.

What should I wear?

Attire is business casual. Jeans are highly discouraged.

How will I be updated about the Summer Research Program if necessary?

All information will be sent directly to the email address associated with your DMU Mentored Research Program account. All emails will be from cme@dmu.edu.

I am giving an oral presentation; can I go over my presentation with a member of the DMU Mentored Research closing program committee?

You are encouraged to practice your presentation before friends and your faculty mentor. Be sure to time yourself. For specific questions about your presentation, consult a member of the DMU Mentored Research closing program planning committee.

Is participating in this something I could list on my graduate school application or résumé?

Yes! Generally this would be under an "Awards and Honors" section of your résumé or curriculum vitae.