



The Association for Communication Excellence Research and Academic Programs Learning Community is pleased to announce the call for the annual graduate student research proposal competition. Please share this call with others in your unit to make sure that all of our graduate students are notified of this opportunity. The outstanding research proposal award will be presented at the **2021 ACE Conference (held virtually), June 21–24**.

Eligibility

- Students may submit FULL research proposals that are focused on research related to communications in agriculture and/or natural resources (maximum of 20 pages, not including references and appendices).
- Students may submit original research proposed as part of a thesis, dissertation or another research project created between the dates of January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2020.
- A graduate student must be listed as the principal investigator, including research proposal that are not part of a thesis or dissertation.
- Each institution may submit up to two proposals for consideration.
- The graduate student author or at least one members of their committee must be a current ACE member (**dues are owed Jan. 1 each year**).

Submission Guidelines

- Proposals should be **submitted electronically** in .PDF format to Vice Chair, Laura Fischer at laura.fischer@ttu.edu
- Submissions should come from a nominating faculty member at the corresponding institution.
- Proposal submissions should include two separate documents to facilitate a blind, peer review process. Each document is detailed below.

Document 1: Cover Page (one page)

1. Indicate clearly the type of proposal (thesis, dissertation, or research project) being submitted.
2. Provide a research proposal title that is an accurate representation of the study.
3. Include the principal investigator's name, mailing address, phone number, and email address. If other investigators are included in the proposal, provide contact information for all.
 - Committee Members/Co-Investigators
 - Provide full contact information for all additional members of the research committee or co-investigators for the research proposed.
 - Please designate the committee chair (if appropriate).

Document 2: Proposal Manuscript (limited to 20 pages, not including references and appendices)

* Please note, the researcher(s) or their institutions should not be identifiable in any of these materials.

1. *Problem Statement*
 - a. Provide a statement of the situation and/or problem being proposed.
 - b. Problem statements of pertinent interest to the agricultural communications profession, including teaching, research, and outreach activities, are encouraged.
2. *Brief Background/Status of Previous Investigations*
 - a. Clearly articulate the theoretical/logical/conceptual framework for your study.
 - b. Provide a brief background of previous research leading up to the proposed study. Use correct citations (*APA Publication Manual*, latest edition) in the text body.

3. *Purpose and Objectives*
 - a. Describe the purpose of the proposed research study.
 - b. Enumerate the research objectives necessary to complete the purpose.
 - If applicable, provide hypotheses to be tested.
4. *Basic Assumptions/Delimitations or Scope of Investigation*
 - a. Describe underlying assumptions/delimitations that may impact the proposed study.
 - b. Describe the scope of the investigation.
5. *Methods*
 - a. Design - Describe the proposed research design (Quantitative: quasi experimental/experimental; Qualitative: participant observation/naturalistic/content analysis) in sufficient detail, including any threats to internal and external validity.
 - b. Population/Sample - Provide detailed descriptions of the population's characteristics, sampling procedure, sample type, and sampling error.
 - c. Instrument - Provide accurate descriptions of research instrument(s) proposed, scales of measurement, validity (field tests, panel of experts, etc.), and reliability (post-hoc, test type—alpha, split half, etc.) tests.
 - d. Data Collection - Explain procedures for data collection including timeline, procedures for handling non-response, follow-up procedures, and expected response rates.
 - e. Data Analysis - Describe the proposed data analysis procedures or techniques for all collected data based on study design (quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods).
6. *References* (not included in page count)
 - a. Provide all references cited in the document.
 - b. Use correct citation format (*APA Publication Manual*, latest edition) for reference list.
7. *Appendix* (not included in page count)
 - a. Provide evidence that a university-issued Institutional Review Board (IRB) process was completed (IRB forms may be attached to the proposal), or provide the date when IRB approval was requested for the proposed study.
 - b. Provide additional supporting materials for the proposed study. This may include recruitment materials or instrumentation materials (sample surveys, questionnaires, interviewing protocols, etc.) as appropriate for the proposed study.

Format Expectations

- Times New Roman, 12 point font, double-spaced with 1” margins
- Document 2 is limited to 20 pages (not including references and appendices)
- Use *APA Publication Manual* (most current edition) style in all situations.

Award Selection Process

Judging and selection of the outstanding research proposal award recipient will be conducted independently by at least two active ACE Research and Academic Programs LC members. Faculty advisors of the nominees are ineligible to serve on the selection committee. The award recipients will be announced and recognized at the 2021 ACE Conference.

Questions regarding research proposal submissions can be directed to Vice Chair, Laura Fischer at laura.fischer@ttu.edu

We look forward to seeing you virtually!

Jessica Holt, Chair
Laura Fischer, Vice Chair
Garrett Steede, Research Director
Shannon Norris, Secretary

