

# VPR Fellowship and 3 Minute Challenge Frequently Asked Questions

## OVERVIEW

### What is the VPR graduate fellows program?

The Vice President for Research (VPR) Graduate Fellows Program at Colorado State University was created by the Vice President for Research to support excellence in graduate research and to promote interdisciplinarity at the university by engaging the best and brightest students from graduate programs across the institution. Fellows will be eligible to receive up to \$4,000 in scholarship and travel support as well as opportunities to engage in professional development workshops, mentorship, leadership engagement opportunities etc.

### What is the selection process?

Every February the OVPR will select a group of 12-16 graduate students pursuing Ph.D., terminal masters and other professional degrees at CSU. Fellows are selected from a pool of candidates identified by their participation in the annual Graduate Showcase. Selection for the Fellowship program occurs via a VPR 3 Minute Challenge where students present their scholarship findings in three minutes or less with 1 static PowerPoint slide.

### What is the VPR 3 Minute Challenge?

The VPR 3 Minute Challenge concept came from a program initiated at the University of Queensland called the Three Minute Thesis. Students are asked to consolidate their thesis ideas, major findings and significance to a three-minute presentation suitable for a **general audience**.

#### *Format:*

- Comprise a single, static PowerPoint slide and spoken word
- Do not include gimmicks, music, dancing, electronic media, props, experiments, costumes, etc.
- Presentation must be directed at the "general public" *Judging categories:*
- Comprehension and content
- Engagement and communication

### Who is eligible?

To be eligible for the VPR Fellows program, a student cannot have a projected graduation date prior to May of the year following selection and they must be a resident student. Fellows are required to secure their advisor's approval for participation in the program prior to competing in the 3 Minute Challenge.

### What's in it for a Fellow?

Financial Support: Each Fellow is eligible to receive up to \$4000 in support (up to \$2500 in scholarship and up to \$1500 travel allowance to attend a professional conference).

Engagement and Leadership Activities: Each Fellow is required to participate in collaborative engagement activities via co-curricular programming. The fellows programming will consist of a range of activities including seminars and workshops, professional development activities, OVPR events, mentoring and engagement with industry/community leaders, and outreach opportunities.

## VPR FELLOWSHIP CHALLENGE

### What is the VPR Fellowship Challenge?

Every February the OVPR selects a group of graduate students pursuing Ph.D., terminal masters and other professional degrees at CSU. Candidates are identified by their participation in the annual Graduate Showcase or nominated by their college. Selection for the Fellows program occurs via the VPR 3 Minute Challenge, a half-day event in which each student has three minutes to present their thesis ideas, major findings and significance to a

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general audience. Challenge participants are judged based on a technical and creative score on a Likert scale. The top 12-16 students will be invited to be VPR Fellows.

## **Do I need a presentation?**

You are required to have a widescreen, static, one slide PowerPoint presentation which is due by noon on Friday, February 7, 2020.

## **When is my presentation due? What if I turn in my PowerPoint slide late?**

Your PowerPoint slide is due at noon on Friday, February 7, 2020. Late submissions will be disqualified.

## **Do I need to bring my own laptop or my presentation on a USB drive?**

No, presentations will be preloaded on a laptop prior to your arrival at the VPR Fellowship 3 Minute Challenge.

## **Do I need to introduce myself or add my name, department or advisor's name to my PowerPoint?**

No. In between each slide we will create introductory slides that will include this information.

**May I use any props?** No props or gimmicks are allowed in the VPR 3 Minute Challenge.

## **What time should I be at the VPR 3 Minute Challenge?**

You will be given a specific check in time. If you are late you will be automatically disqualified.

## **Do I have to attend the entire VPR 3 Minute Challenge?**

You are not required to attend the entire VPR 3 Minute Challenge, however it is encouraged as it gives you an opportunity to learn more about your colleagues and provides a chance to create research collaborations.

## **Can I invite my advisors or friends to the VPR Fellowship Challenge?**

Yes, the VPR 3 Minute Challenge is open to the public. We encourage you to invite your friends, colleagues and advisors.

**Is there a dress code?** Presenters are expected to dress business or business casual.

## **What if I need special accommodations to present or view the presentations?**

If you have need special accommodations to present or view the presentations given at the VPR 3 Minute Challenge, please let Ellen Fisher at [Ellen.Fisher@ColoradoState.Edu](mailto:Ellen.Fisher@ColoradoState.Edu) know as soon as possible.

## **Who is judging? On what criteria will my presentation be judged?**

A panel of multidisciplinary experts will be judging the VPR Fellowship Challenge Event. Your presentation will be judged on criteria in the following areas: comprehension, content, engagement, communication and creativity.

## **When will I know if I was selected to become a VPR Fellow?**

We will have a list of invited VPR Fellows by the end of February or sooner. If you are selected, you will be notified via email.

*Updated 12/2019*



VICE PRESIDENT  
FOR RESEARCH  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY