
CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Creating Learning Opportunities

6th Annual Graduate Student Colloquium
Saturday, September 12th, 2009
University of Texas at Austin

Proposal Submission Deadline: Monday, June 15th @ 5:00pm

You are invited to submit a proposal for the 2009 Graduate Student Colloquium (GSC) to take place at the University of Texas at Austin on Saturday, **September 12th, 2009**. The goal of the colloquium is to showcase current best practices and research that effectively **engages all undergraduate students in meaningful learning**--regardless of their learning style, demographic or educational background.

Graduate students are the primary audience for the colloquium—especially for those currently assigned as teaching assistants or assistant instructors, as well as graduate students preparing for future faculty roles. Graduate student instructors contribute greatly to the level of teaching excellence at every university, and our 6th annual meeting is an exciting opportunity to advance your pedagogical, professional, and personal development.

This year's theme is *Creating Learning Opportunities*. We expect this theme to spark new ideas and transform critical conversations into lively, interactive, and engaging sessions. We welcome submissions from all academic disciplines. Sessions are one hour in length and run concurrently.

The UT Austin Graduate Student Instructor (GSI) program is one of the first in the country to model a graduate student colloquium based on a competitive selection process for submitted proposals. This innovative colloquium model offers presenters professional support through formative feedback on submitted proposals, pre-colloquium session dry-runs, and peer-driven question and answer sessions.

Types of Proposals

You may submit proposals in three categories:

1. **Interactive workshop sessions** that demonstrate best practices in creating meaningful learning environments
2. **Poster sessions** that draw on original research conducted by presenters about teaching and learning
3. **A TA/AI Panel** focused on reflections about panelists' experiences as a graduate student instructor

The University of Texas Honor Code - The core values of the University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the University is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect towards peers and community.

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1. Interactive workshop sessions:

We welcome proposals that feature research, best practices, and hands-on workshops involving pedagogical strategies that **encourage, support and focus on creating, nurturing, maintaining, and envisioning meaningful learning opportunities** for UT's diverse undergraduate student body. Your goal is to present knowledge so that participants leave with clear ideas about how to apply, extend, or adapt that information to their own teaching. Key words to consider as you prepare your submission--*active, constructive, intentional, authentic, and collaborative*.

Your session proposal is limited to **1500 words** and must include the following elements:

- 1) Title
- 2) Abstract (250 word limit)
- 3) A description of the session topic
- 4) A conceptual framework for your work – for example, theoretical or empirical basis, goals, implementation, and assessment
- 5) A description of the session's interactive components
- 6) A description of how your session relates to the conference theme (see below for suggested topics)
- 7) Expected outcomes for session participants
- 8) Describe how your presentation can be applied in interdisciplinary settings.
- 9) Include draft handouts and other resources that accompany your session.

Presenters are expected to exhibit effective presentation skills *and* to use interactive learning techniques to engage participants.

Accepted proposals will engage attendees through one or more of the following:

- 1) Learning via discussion
- 2) Small group work
- 3) Demonstrations
- 4) Hands-on activities
- 5) Role playing
- 6) Other interactive learning strategies

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2. Poster Sessions:

Poster sessions focus on **original research** that ensures instruction is **accessible to all students, regardless of their previous educational experience**. Entries may be submitted by individuals or group collaborations that include UT graduate students.

Poster Session Guidelines:

- Title of the Research Poster
- Abstract (no more than 250 words)
- Detailed description of the research, including purpose, relation to pedagogy, and outcomes (no more than 1,500 words)
- Name of applicant(s)
- Contact Information

TA/AI Panel:

This discussion panel features an interdisciplinary group of graduate students who will share their teaching challenges and successes with colloquium participants.

If you would like to be considered for this panel, please e-mail a short biography, why you are interested in participating and a curriculum vitae to aspects@utlists.utexas.edu with the subject line *Invited Panel*

Suggested Topics

Overarching topics for the 2009 colloquium address different aspects of meaningful learning: 1) Leading Discussions, 2) Incorporating Writing into Instruction, 3) Integrating Technology to Support Learning, and 4) Assessing Learning. Acceptable session topics may include but are not limited to the following:

1. *Leading Discussions*

- Using discussion to engage and motivate students from diverse backgrounds
- The roles of discussion to foster community
- How to build rapport with every student to foster discussion
- Socratic discussion
- Managing discussions about sensitive topics
- Crafting engaging discussion for multidisciplinary, diverse learning environments

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2. *Incorporating Writing into Instruction*

- The roles of writing in learning
- The relationship between writing and discussion
- Incorporating discipline-specific writing strategies in multidisciplinary learning environments
- Strategies to support students who face challenges with their writing
- Process-based writing
- Writing in multi-cultural, multi-lingual learning environments

3. *Integrating Technology to Support Learning*

- Online communication and collaboration
- Emerging technologies used to foster learning for all students
- Effectively facilitating online discussions
- Online tools and peer review processes

4. *Assessing Learning*

- Peer-to-peer evaluation
- Assessing discussion
- Assessing presentation
- Assessing writing
- Self-reflection as a learning tool

Submission Process

1. Proposals should be submitted electronically as an e-mail attachment to aspects@utlists.utexas.edu no later than 5:00p.m. Monday, June 15th, 2009.
2. Your proposal must be in one of the following formats: .pdf, .doc, .rtf
3. Name your document using the following convention:
<Your last name>_09GSCProp.<format>, e.g. Garza_09GSCProp.doc
4. At the beginning of your proposal, indicate who the presenters are, and which type of proposal you're submitting.
5. If you have any questions, please e-mail aspects@utlists.utexas.edu