



What to expect at CURC:



Attending your first symposium, especially the Celebration of Undergraduate Research and Creativity (CURC) Symposium, can be both exciting and overwhelming. This guide will help you navigate the event with confidence, ensuring you make the most of your experience.

Before the Symposium

1. Prepare Your Presentation

- Whether you're presenting a poster or giving a talk, practice your delivery multiple times.
 - Ensure your research or artistry is clearly communicated in a way that is accessible to a broad audience.
 - Ensure your performance is well polished. (Be sure we have your musical needs).
 - Ensure your visual art is/are ready to present (What kind of stand or mount will you need to display your work? Let the CURC team know.)
- Have a concise “elevator pitch” ready—30 seconds to summarize your project and its significance.
- Bring printed handouts or business cards (if applicable) to share with attendees.

2. Dress for Success

- Business casual is the standard at many conferences. This doesn't mean your usual attire is any less professional, but when in doubt, business casual is always a safe bet!
- Wear comfortable shoes—expect to be on your feet for long periods.

3. Know the Agenda

- Review the schedule ahead of time and plan which sessions or talks interest you.

4. Check out our Community Guidelines.

- Community guidelines set expectations for respectful behavior, ensuring a safe, inclusive, and positive environment for all members, presenters, judges, and attendees.

During the Symposium

1. Arrive Early

- Give yourself time to set up, find your way around, and settle in before your session starts.
 - Posters and Artwork must be up at 9 am! Posters cannot be taken down until the end of the Gold session at 3 pm.
 - All other presentation types please arrive 30 minutes before your assigned time.



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- If you're presenting, confirm where and when you are scheduled. This information will be on your name badge at check-in.

2. Engage with Others

- Ask thoughtful questions during presentations—this shows interest and helps you network.
- Don't be afraid to introduce yourself to faculty, judges, and fellow students.
- Exchange contact information with people you meet for future collaboration. Just take a picture of the name badges and connect later on via email.

3. Stay Professional

- Be respectful when engaging with presenters, panelists, and attendees. The other presenters feel just like you do.
- Keep your phone silent and avoid distractions during sessions.
- If you receive feedback, take notes, and show appreciation. The judges are here to help you become better. This should be a positive experience for you, please let the CURC Team know if you feel you were treated unfairly.

4. Take Breaks

- Stay hydrated and take short breaks to avoid burnout.
- Step outside or find a quiet area to regroup if needed. There are quiet rooms available if needed right around the corner from the Ballrooms, ask a CURC team member if you want directions to one.

After the Symposium

1. Follow Up

- Send thank-you emails to those who provided feedback, asked questions, or inspired you.
- Connect with new contacts on LinkedIn or other professional networks.

2. Reflect on Your Experience

- What went well? What could you improve next time?
- Take note of any key insights or ideas you gained from other presentations.

3. Update Your Resume & Portfolio

- Add your symposium participation and any awards received to your resume.
- Look into completing the MRAD

By following this guide, you'll be well-prepared to navigate CURC confidently and make the most of your symposium experience. Good luck!