



**College of Graduate Studies
2026 Three Minute Thesis**

**AWARD WINNERS WILL BE RECOGNIZED IN AN AWARD CEREMONY TO BE HELD
IN SPRING 2026**

Entries due February 2 by 12:00 p.m. (noon)
Register at <https://forms.microsoft.com/r/4tzYQ0JYXi>
Preliminary Rounds on February 18 and 19 at 11 a.m.
Finals on February 26 at 11:30 a.m.



The University of Queensland developed a program where students summarize their research in three minutes or less using pre-determined guidelines. The format is one where students make a presentation in three minutes and a panel of judges scores each student to determine a final winner. Cleveland State University hosts a qualifying competition to decide which student will represent our university at the regional competition sponsored by the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools. For the CSU 3MT competition, students will present during one of two preliminary rounds on **Wednesday, February 18 or Thursday, February 19 from 11am-1pm**. Top students from each preliminary round will advance to present at the 3MT Finals on **Thursday, February 26 from 11:30am-1pm**.

The monetary prize for First Place is \$500 and the monetary prize associated with Second Place is \$250. There will also be a People's Choice Award of \$100. Student must have a GPA of 3.0 or better and be in good academic standing at the time of competition.

To participate, eligible graduate students must complete the [3MT Registration Form](#) by **noon on February 2**. The registration form will ask for the title of your thesis, dissertation or other original research project. The form will also ask for a letter, statement or e-mail from your advisor indicating their support of your participation. Enrolled graduate students presenting on an original research project including but not limited to a thesis or dissertation are eligible to participate. Graduates from the previous summer are eligible to participate.

3MT RULES:

- A single static PowerPoint slide is permitted (no slide transitions, animations or 'movement' of any description, the slide is to be presented from the beginning of the oration).
- No additional electronic media (e.g. sound and video files) are permitted.
- No additional props (e.g. costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment) are permitted.
- Presentations are limited to 3-minute maximum and competitors exceeding 3 minutes are disqualified.
- Presentations are to be spoken word (e.g. no poems, raps or songs).
- Presentations are to commence from the stage.
- Presentations are considered to have commenced when a presenter starts their presentation through movement or speech.
- The decision of the adjudicating panel is final.

3MT JUDGING CRITERIA:

1. Comprehension & Content

- Did the presentation provide an understanding of the background to the research question being addressed and its significance?
- Did the presentation clearly describe the key results of the research including conclusions and outcomes?
- Did the presentation follow a clear and logical sequence?
- Was the thesis topic, key results and research significance and outcomes communicated in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience?
- Did the speaker avoid scientific jargon, explain terminology and provide adequate background information to illustrate points?
- Did the presenter spend adequate time on each element of their presentation - or did they elaborate for too long on one aspect or was the presentation rushed?

2. Engagement

- Did the oration make the audience want to know more?
- Was the presenter careful not to trivialize or generalize their research?
- Did the presenter convey enthusiasm for their research?
- Did the presenter capture and maintain their audience's attention?
- Did the speaker have sufficient stage presence, eye contact and vocal range; maintain a steady pace, and have a confident stance?
- Did the PowerPoint slide enhance the presentation - was it clear, legible, and concise?