

# Graduate Showcase

## *MA in Communication Studies*

Main campus students who are graduating in the Spring, Summer, or Fall are required to participate in the Communication Studies Graduate Showcase in the spring. The showcase typically takes place on the third Friday in April in Phifer Room 104B.

The goal of a showcase presentation is to provide students with a formal occasion to demonstrate their academic, presentation, and research communication skills to their peers and professors. Students' ability to demonstrate disciplinary knowledge, apply knowledge, integrate knowledge, and communicate ideas effectively in a formal academic setting will be assessed by a team of evaluators.

In the showcase presentation, students have 3-5 minutes to describe findings from a research and/or professional project they conducted during their program of graduate study. Each student's faculty advisor can help to define the topic and substance of the presentation, drawing upon work from a thesis, class research, an applied project, or the capstone portfolio. Students should follow a *Three Minute Thesis* style of presentation. Examples of this style may be found at <https://threeminutethesis.uq.edu.au/>.

Students are encouraged make an appointment with *The Speaking Studio* at <https://speakingstudio.ua.edu/> in order to rehearse the presentation and receive feedback by no later than the second Friday of April. Be prepared to submit the "client report form" provided by your consultant as evidence of your visit. To prepare for that appointment, the Director of *The Speaking Studio* Dr. Brooks typically hosts an informational session in late March.

Please consider the following aspects when preparing your presentation:

### **Comprehension and Content**

- Does your presentation describe the background and significance of the research question you addressed or project you conducted?
- Does your presentation clearly describe a conceptual or theoretical framework for your research? Do you define relevant terms?
- Did you clearly describe the impact and/or results of your research or project, including any significant conclusions or outcomes?
- Is your presentation organized in a clear and logical way?
- Were all parts of your presentation equally balanced and did you spend adequate time on each part of the presentation?

### **Engagement and Communication**

- Does your manner of delivery make the audience want to know more?
- Do you convey enthusiasm for the subject and for listeners?
- Does your presentation capture and maintain listeners' attention?
- Do you project sufficient stage presence, eye contact, vocal range, a steady pace, a confident stance, and an extemporaneous delivery style?
- Do your powerpoint slides (up to two allowed) enhance (or detract from) the presentation? Are slides clear, legible, and concise?
- Did you apply effective design principles for presenting content and adding visual appeal?