GUIDELINES
24TH ANNUAL
STUDENT RESEARCH CONFERENCE
Friday, April 17, 2026

University of Houston-Downtown (UHD)
8:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Purpose: The purpose of the **24th Annual UHD Student Research Conference** (SRC) is to showcase special academic projects undertaken by UHD students and recent UHD graduates. **Qualifying activities** are senior capstone research projects, research projects completed as part of internships, service learning projects with research, independent or directed study at UHD, GSIF poster presenters who have extended their research, upper-level research-oriented lab courses, senior type or graduate level projects, or any other research on and/or off-campus. Projects which are conceptual as approved by a faculty sponsor will be accepted as well. The conference is organized and sponsored by the UHD Scholars Academy with funding from The Brown Foundation, Inc., the 2021 DOED grant award (P120A220015), 2023 DOED MSEIP grant award (P120A230070), and UHD. For additional information and programs from previous SRC events, visit https://www.uhd.edu/scholars.

Targeted Participants: Any UHD student or team of students or recent UHD graduate who has/have completed a research/creative/conceptual activity-type project associated with independent or directed study, upper-level research courses, senior-type or graduate level activities, internships, service learning projects with research, or any other form of research/creative/conceptual activity on and/or off-campus. The scope of this conference is broad, and we invite participation by students from **all academic areas at UHD – both undergraduate and graduate**:

- **Posters/PowerPoints on research, academic creative activities, capstone projects, conceptual projects**
- **Posters/PowerPoints on corporate/ teaching internships or interdisciplinary applications**
- **Selected student oral presentations with PowerPoint** (8 min., with 2-3 min. for questions). Selectees must attend all rehearsals found in the Guidelines.

Recognition of Participation: This conference is non-competitive. Participants will receive a copy of the proceedings, a special SRC memento, and an important experience to include in their cv/resumes. Abstracts included in the proceedings may be listed as a presentation.

Abstracts: Abstracts must not be more than 200 words. Ideally, the abstract should include the objective(s), problem, overview, and an interesting/enticing summary to catch a reader's interest. Accepted abstracts will be listed online in the SRC conference proceedings and may be listed by the student as a presentation. Abstracts that are poorly written will not be accepted. The faculty sponsor should agree to review and support their student's abstract and poster entrance to the SRC before online submission.

SRC Program Schedule for April 17, 2026

8:00 AM	Registration	Mural Area
	Continental Breakfast	Skyline Lounge
9:00 AM	Introductory Remarks - Executive Director, Dr. Mary Jo Parker Recognition of the 2026 SRC Co-Chairs & Committee members Recognition of any Special Guests	Robertson Auditorium
9:15 AM	Introduction of UHD President Dr. Loren Blanchard Introduction of Provost Dr. Deborah Bordelon Introduction of CST Dean, Dr. Akif Uzman	
9:30 AM	Introduction of STEM Keynote Speaker – TBD	
9:35 AM	STEM Keynote Speaker – TBD	
10:00 AM	Oral Presentations Begin Introductions by SRC Chairs	
11:45 AM	Closing STEM Keynote Speaker -TBD	
12:00 PM	Dr. Mary Jo Parker Remarks & Lunch	Skyline Lounge
1:00 PM	Poster Sessions Begin	A300
1:00 PM	Session I	
2:30 PM	Session II	
3:30 PM	SRC closes –Post Conference Survey	

General Conference Expectations: The SRC event provides an opportunity to experience a professional conference simulation while still on the UHD campus. Most conferences do not state or outline a conference dress code, but rather allow the attendee to infer, through standards upheld by their disciplines' professional societies, the most appropriate dress expectations. SRC will adopt this approach in keeping with the nature of the disciplines comprising the conference and in keeping with the UHD mission/strategic plan supporting student inclusion.

Community Invitees: UHD community; Greater Houston Area corporate and academic community; undergraduates from other Houston campuses; and teachers/administrators from local high schools.

Property: All posters/other presentation types produced will become the property of UHD, unless other arrangements are made due to scheduled presentations of the poster elsewhere. Printed posters will be available for the Faculty Sponsors/Faculty Depts. at a future date to be on regular display in the areas of the participating departments. Faculty must approve and sign Poster Approval Form for all printing requests.

Photographs/Publications: Photographs/videos of participant area taken during presentations and throughout the event. These photographs/videos, abstracts, posters and release of information deemed necessary for publications may be used in associated UHD promotional media. Please submit with the SRC application, media release form - *Authorization For Use of Image, Voice, Performance, Artwork or Likeness* – during application.

Application Submission Deadlines: All participants (poster and oral) must submit an online application and upload the Entry Form (found within the SRC Conference Guidelines) signed by their Faculty Sponsor; signature of the academic department chairperson is optional (department determines if required). Additionally, an electronic abstract as a MS Word document is required by the following deadlines:

SRC Application Deadlines

SRC Guidelines available to UHD community	**Friday, December 13, 2025** **Tuesday, January 13, 2026**
Oral Application deadline* (Oral applications not accepted after this date)	**Tuesday, March 17, 2026**

SRC Online Application Submission URL:
https://uhd.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cNhsgPEce21g3vo

*All applications MUST include electronic abstract in MS Word format. UHD media release form MUST be uploaded.

Oral Presenters

If selected as an oral presenter, the student must present both orally **and** present a poster.

Date	Action Items
March 6, 2026	Complete SRC Application online including signed approval form
March 24-26, 2026	Participate in a mandatory, videotaped audition held in-person with Scholars Academy (SA). Auditions will be 8 minutes in length and include a PowerPoint presentation visual. Sign-up is via Teams and SA Program Coordinator will notify applicants and grant access to sign-up.
March 31 – April 3, 2026	SRC Committee reviews oral auditions and submits rankings.
April 4, 2026 **April 7-9, 2026**	Oral presenters notified of acceptance by email. If not accepted to present orally, the student is still expected to present a poster. Schedule a mandatory oral presentation consultation via Teams. Consultations are an hour in length, scheduled with Dr. Veeramoothoo and available in-person and virtually.
April 14-16, 2026	Attend mandatory oral presentation dry runs held by appointment with Dr. Veeramoothoo; all dry runs held in Robertson Auditorium, Academic Building.
April 17, 2026	Selected SRC Oral Presentations follow Keynote Speaker.

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Funded by: The Brown Foundation, Inc., DOED MSEIP (P120A190069), and UH-Downtown.

Poster Presenters

Date	Action Items
December 13, 2025	SRC Guidelines available
March 17, 2026	Deadline: complete SRC Application online including signed approval form. (This is the deadline date for submission of poster-only applications.)
April 4, 2026	Poster presenters/Faculty Sponsor notified of acceptance via email
Recorded SRC Workshops **Live SRC Workshops**	Dr. Shahnjayla Connors, Dr. Lisa Morano, Dr. Laura Ruth Parker https://www.uhd.edu/academics/sciences/scholars/scholars-src.aspx Videos available at SA SRC webpage
April 3, 2026	Submit poster/other type files in electronic format at: https://uhd.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0JrGP43EgaIehRI Poster/Other type files/Approval Forms for Faculty Sponsor signature are available at: https://www.uhd.edu/academics/sciences/scholars/scholars-src.aspx Sponsoring Faculty must approve and sign Poster Approval Form for all printing requests If you intend to use a poster/other file used for a different 2025 conference, email the SA Exec Director with the information at parkerm@uhd.edu. SA SRC PowerPoint template file required for use in creating poster file; 1-slide file found at: https://www.uhd.edu/academics/sciences/scholars/scholars-src.aspx . Other poster template files not allowed.
April 17, 2026	**SRC 2026**
*All applications MUST include electronic abstract in MS Word format	

Acknowledgment of Assistance, Sponsorship, and Resources: Research mentors of these projects (or those acting as on-campus surrogates) will mentor participants during the preparation of their posters and presentations if selected as an oral presenter. Participants must list/recognize all acknowledgements on their poster; this includes any assistance of individuals and/or organizations/ agencies that worked on the research or sponsored the project. Proper APA citations (software, images, resources, etc.) as well as proper acknowledgment of co-authorships and funding support should also be included on the poster. This includes funding agency logo (to be provided by sponsoring faculty or at SA website)

Entry Forms (Available at Scholars Academy/SRC webpage):

Individual Project Entry Form
Team Project Entry Form
Sample Undergraduate Abstracts
Poster Approval Form
Authorization for Use of Image, Voice, Performance, Artwork or Likeness (media release form)

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