# 2019 Three Minute Thesis Timeline/Schedule of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Intro to Three Minute Thesis Workshops</strong></td>
<td>Attend an introduction session to learn about 3MT rules, judging criteria, eligibility, registration details, and benefits of participating in this academic research competition. Attending one of these sessions will give competitors a head start on communicating research to a nontechnical audience. Competitors only need to attend one session.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Workshop 1:</em></td>
<td>Fri., Jan. 18, 2019, 12 – 1pm Union Room 3202</td>
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<td><em>Workshop 2:</em></td>
<td>Wed., Jan. 23, 2019, 9-10am Union Room 3202</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Three Minute Thesis Kickoff Lunch</strong></td>
<td>3MT Competitors will meet one another and be introduced to resources and staff who support the Three Minute Thesis.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed., February 13, 2019, 12 – 1pm</td>
<td>Union Room 3202</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Three Minute Thesis Practice Session</strong></td>
<td>Competitors are encouraged to sign up for a 3MT Practice Session time slot (15 minutes) to practice their presentation in a simulated competition setting and receive feedback on script and slide prior to preliminary round(s). Sign-up information will be shared with competitors.</td>
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<tr>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>CBIS Auditorium</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Preliminary Competition Round(s)</strong></td>
<td>Competitors will present their Three Minute Thesis following 3MT rules and judging criteria. The top ten competitors will advance to the Final Three Minute Thesis Competition held on Saturday, April 20, 2019 at 11:00 am.</td>
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<tr>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>CBIS Auditorium</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Final Competition</strong></td>
<td>The Final Three Minute Thesis Competition will take place during the Graduate Research Symposium following 3MT rules and judging criteria. The top ten finalists will compete for the following cash prizes:</td>
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| Sat., April 20, 2019, 11:00am              | First Place: $750  
Runner Up: $500  
People’s Choice: $250                                                                           |
| CBIS Auditorium                            |                                                                                                                                                   |

**Questions?**
Please contact Colleen Smith, dean of grad experience, smithc15@rpi.edu
THREE MINUTE THESIS INFORMATION

BENEFITS
- Develops academic, presentation, research communication
- Supports development of research project
- Opportunity to effectively explain research in three minutes in language appropriate to non-specialists

RULES
- A single static PowerPoint slide is permitted. No slide transitions, animations or 'movement' of any description are allowed. 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 minutes 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 either movement or speech.
- The decision of the adjudicating panel is final.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Comprehension
- Did the presentation help the audience understand the research?
- Did the presenter clearly outline the nature and aims of research?
- Did the presenter clearly indicate what was significant about this research?
- Did the presentation follow a logical sequence?

Engagement
- Did the presentation make the audience want to know more?
- Was the presenter careful not to trivialize or 'dumb down' the research?
- Did the presenter convey enthusiasm for the research?
- Did the presenter capture and maintain their audience's attention?
- Would the audience want to know more about the speaker's research?

Communication
- Was the thesis topic and its significance communicated in language appropriate to non-specialists?
- Did the speaker use eye contact, vocal range, maintain a steady pace, and exhibit a confident stance?
- Did the speaker avoid scientific jargon, explain terminology, and provide adequate background info?
- Did the presenter spend the right amount of time on each element of the presentation?
- Did the slide enhance, rather than detract from, the presentation; and was it clear, legible, and concise?

SCORING
Each judge assigns competitors a score of 1 through 10 for each of the three criteria. Once presentations are over, the judges' scores are combined and the student with the highest points tally is declared the winner. Audience members vote via ballot for the People’s Choice Award.

ELIGIBILITY
Only current Rensselaer Ph.D. students are eligible to compete in the Spring 2019 Three Minute Thesis. Previous 3MT Competitors are ineligible to compete in Spring 2019 Three Minute Thesis.