



Stats in a Flash: Student Guidelines

Overview

The CANSSI Quebec Stats in a Flash: 180-Second Thesis Competition is an exciting opportunity for master's and PhD students studying statistical sciences in Quebec. This competition challenges participants to present their research in a 180-second (three-minute) timeframe. Both English and French presentations are accepted.

Presenters are limited to a single static PowerPoint slide, with no transitions, animations, or additional electronic media allowed. Props, including costumes and musical instruments, are also prohibited.

This competition not only promotes academic excellence but also fosters effective communication and presentation skills. Overall, the CANSSI Quebec Stats in a Flash competition provides a unique platform for graduate students to showcase their research and enhance their communication abilities within the statistical sciences community.

Eligibility

- Full-time master's or PhD students registered in statistical sciences-related thesis-based programs in Quebec are eligible to participate.
- Graduate students in course-based programs, visiting students, exchange students, and students on leave are not eligible to participate.
- Graduate students at any stage of their program are eligible to participate.
- Presentations must be based on the primary research the graduate student has conducted in their graduate program.
- Participants must be present in person on the day of the competition, agree to be photographed and digitally recorded, and allow any recordings to be made public.
- The entry deadline is one week before the date of the competition.
- The presentation slide must be sent to melina.mailhot@concordia.ca at least one week before the date of the competition.

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 are permitted (e.g., costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment).
- Presentations are limited to 3 minutes; competitors will be cut off at the 3-minute mark and will be judged on their unfinished presentation.
- Presentations are to be delivered in regular prose (i.e., no poems, slam poetry, raps, songs, or spoken word presentations).
- Presentations are considered to have commenced when a presenter initiates speech.
- The decisions of the judging panel are final.

Judging Criteria

The following categories should be used as guidelines for judging the presentations of each competitor.

The weighting of each category is to be determined by the judges.

Communication

- Did the presenter use non-verbal communication (i.e., eye contact, voice modulation, body language) effectively?
- Did the presenter use language and terminology that was clear, jargon-free, and understandable to a general audience?
- Did the presentation follow a logical sequence?
- Did the presenter spend adequate time on each element of their presentation? Did they spend too much time on one aspect, or did the presentation feel rushed?

Comprehension

- Did the talk help you to understand the scholarly research being undertaken?
- Did the presenter clearly outline the nature and purpose of their research?
- Did the presenter clearly indicate the fascinating or compelling aspects of their research?

- Did the presentation provide an understanding of the background and significance of the research question being addressed?
- Did the presentation clearly describe the impact and/or results of the research, including conclusions and outcomes?

Engagement

- Was the talk engaging?
- Did the presenter capture and maintain the audience's attention?
- Did the presenter convey enthusiasm for their work?
- Was the presenter careful not to trivialise or generalise their research?
- Did the talk inspire you to want to know more?
- Did the PowerPoint slide enhance the presentation? Was it clear, legible, and concise?

Prizes

- 1st Place: \$500
- 2nd Place: \$250
- 3rd Place: \$125
- Audience Choice: \$125

The rules may be changed without prior notice if circumstances change.