

Undergraduate Student Poster Competition
Western Section, American Society of Animal Science (WSASAS)
Guidelines and Score Sheet

Purpose: To provide an opportunity for undergraduate students to gain experience in preparing and presenting scientific information in a scholarly manner on a topic of current importance and interest to the animal industry.

Eligibility and Requirements: At the time of abstract submission, students must be enrolled as an undergraduate student in an institution within the WSASAS region. The student or advisor/project supervisor must be a current member of the American Society of Animal Science (ASAS). Alternatively, undergraduate students enrolled in institutions outside the WSASAS region may compete if the student or advisor/project supervisor is a current member of the WSASAS. For clarification on membership status and requirements, please contact ASAS headquarters (asas@asas.org).

At the time of abstract submission, the advisor/project supervisor must complete the **Undergraduate Verification Form**. The form, with instructions, is available on the WSASAS Meeting website.

Each contestant is limited to a single poster entry. There is no limit on the number of students that can participate from one institution. Contestants must present original research in which they were involved at a level appropriate for undergraduate students. Data that has been presented at other ASAS or ADSA section meeting competitions may not be presented.

Contestants must submit an abstract. However, a proceedings manuscript is NOT required. The advisor's/project supervisor's name should be included as an author on the abstract. Abstracts must be submitted online. When submitting an abstract, the appropriate section indicating "Undergraduate Student Poster Competition" must be selected at the time of electronic submission.

Students are encouraged to attend the WSASAS Awards Banquet. WSASAS will cover banquet fees for Undergraduate Student Poster Competition contestants.

Deadlines: Abstracts and Undergraduate Student Verification forms must be submitted by the general meeting abstract deadline. See the WSASAS Meeting website for information on deadlines and submission guidelines.

Competition Process: Students will present their poster to a panel of judges during the poster session. Poster session dates, times, and locations will be announced in the WSASAS Meeting Program, which will be available in May on the WSASAS Meeting website.

Poster Guidelines:

The poster board surface area is 48" high and 96" wide. The top of the poster space should include the poster board number, title, authors, and affiliations. The lettering for this section should be at least 1" high. Presenters must furnish their own tacks or push pins. (Velcro may or may not work.)

Preparation:

- The same principles of simplicity and clarity apply to both poster and slide presentations; a poster is a cross between an oral presentation and a printed paper.
- Your story should proceed logically, with headings indicating sections: Introduction, Objective(s), Materials and Methods, Results, Summary, and Conclusions.
- Use photos or flow charts to help your audience better visualize the materials and methods used. Graphs should have titles, the axes should be named, and units should be quantified. Tables should also be titled.
- Include a small, professional picture of yourself near the abstract number and the title so people can identify you as the presenter of the poster.

Characteristics of a Good Poster:

1) Text:

- Short statements/paragraphs using bullet points
- Concise lists

2) Color:

- Text – darker color on white or light-colored paper
- Matting – darker or subdued colors instead of brilliant colors
- Colors – limit number used to avoid busyness and distractions. Simple use can add emphasis

3) Text Size:

- Bold, large, block style; mix capitals and lower case
- Title legible from 5 to 10 meters
- Text legible from 1.5 to 2 meters

4) Layout:

- Arrange poster sections from top to bottom, starting at the left side
 - Sufficient blank space is important
 - Use spaces to unify/separate sections
 - Avoid too many small sections (poster pieces), too many edges, and too many narrow spaces
- 5) Illustration:
- Make graphs and tables as simple as possible; focus on the main ideas
 - Color and size are important
 - Photographs: matte finish is better than glossy; use photos only if they are clear and large enough

Score Sheets:

Posters must follow the WSASAS poster guidelines. An example score sheet is provided on the next page of this document. Students are encouraged to study the score sheet.

**UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT POSTER COMPETITION
SCORE SHEET**

Item	Rating				
Abstract	<i>Excellent = 5; Poor = 1</i>				
Organization and completeness	5	4	3	2	1
Follows the guidelines	5	4	3	2	1
Clarity and readability	5	4	3	2	1
Poster Presentation					
<i>Overall organization and appearance</i>					
Key elements were presented logically and effectively	5	4	3	2	1
Fonts and appearance were legible	5	4	3	2	1
Appropriate tables and figures used	5	4	3	2	1
<i>Introduction</i>					
Conveyed background, context, hypothesis, and objective(s)	5	4	3	2	1
<i>Methods</i>					
Described the experimental design and treatment structure	5	4	3	2	1
Described the procedures, techniques, and (or) methods	5	4	3	2	1
Described the statistical methods and analyses	5	4	3	2	1
<i>Summary</i>					
Presented the results pertinent to the hypothesis	5	4	3	2	1
Provided a conclusion(s) and implication(s)	5	4	3	2	1
Student Interview					
Addressed the judges	5	4	3	2	1
Speech clarity and language usage	5	4	3	2	1
Answered questions clearly and concisely	5	4	3	2	1
TOTALS					