

# 4-Minute Thesis Contest

The Four Minute Thesis Contest at SUNY Buffalo State will celebrate the exciting research conducted by graduate students across a spectrum of disciplines. The goal of the contest is to provide an environment where graduate students have the opportunity to explain their research in four minutes in a language appropriate to a non-specialist audience and in as entertaining a way as possible.

## Rules

- One power point slide is permitted. No other visual aides are allowed.
- Presentations are limited to 4 minutes maximum; competitors exceeding 4 minutes are disqualified.
- Presentations are to be spoken.
- The decisions of the judges is final.

## Judging Criteria

### **Comprehension & Content**

- Did the presentation provide an explanation about the motivations for pursuing this research?
- Did the presentation clearly describe the key results of the research?
- Did the presentation follow a clear and logical sequence?
- Was the presentation communicated in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience?
- Did the speaker avoid jargon, explain terminology and provide adequate background information to illustrate points?
- Did the presenter spend adequate time on each element of their presentation - or did they elaborate for too long on one aspect or was the presentation rushed?

### **Engagement & Communication**

- Did the presenter convey enthusiasm for their research?
- Did the presenter capture and maintain their audience's attention?
- Did the speaker have sufficient stage presence, eye contact and vocal range; maintain a steady pace, and have a confident stance?
- Did the PowerPoint slide enhance the presentation - was it clear, legible, and concise?
- Was the presentation entertaining?

**WINNER WILL RECEIVE \$500!!**