



16th Annual College of Education Graduate Student Conference

Education in the 21st Century: Designing a More Inclusive Future

Thursday, March 6th, 2025
In-Person Pre-Conference Session

Friday, March 7th, 2025
Hybrid Conference Sessions

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is proud to host the 16th Annual College of Education Graduate Student Conference on March 6th and 7th in Champaign, Illinois. In collaboration with the Siebel Center for Design and the Academic Excellence in Engineering Education, this event provides an opportunity for graduate student researchers in education to innovate across disciplines and contexts.

The theme of this year’s conference, “Education in the 21st Century: Designing a More Inclusive Future,” emphasizes an interdisciplinary approach to meet the needs of learners tackling complex global issues. Envisioning a more inclusive future creates space for intuition, collaboration, and compassion as we create and innovate toward more humanizing approaches to teaching and learning. Research projects at all stages of development are welcome to participate in the conference. To accommodate researcher preferences and conference needs, a variety of presentation formats are available:

	Posters	Roundtables	Papers
Recommended current stage of the research	In progress/proposed research	Any stage of research including lit reviews and emerging ideas	Completed/near completed research
Date	Pre-conference session: March 6, 2025	Conference day: March 7, 2025	Conference day: March 7, 2025
Format of presentation	In-person lightning talk followed by informal interaction with audience	In-person/virtual 2–3 minute elevator pitch followed by informal conversation with audience	In-person/virtual formal 15-minute presentation followed by a Q&A



We invite submissions that span both research and practice, covering a variety of theoretical, methodological, empirical, and technical approaches related to education. The following sub-themes are a guide, but the conference is open to all submissions that are committed to improving learning and instruction:

1. **Compassionate Design:** Investigating the integration of compassion in design thinking as a tool to foster understanding and address inherent biases, leading to educational solutions that prioritize diversity and inclusivity.
2. **Diverse Perspectives in Language and Literacy:** Understanding the interconnectedness of language and culture in educational settings. Embracing linguistic and cultural diversity to offer meaningful learning experiences.
3. **Critically Examining Policy for an Inclusive Future:** Evaluating educational policies to ensure and advocate for inclusive frameworks that accommodate diverse needs and backgrounds.
4. **Intentional Technologies for Diverse Futures:** Examining how technological tools and platforms can be harnessed to support diverse learners in STEAM and interdisciplinary contexts, ensuring that everyone has equal access to the benefits of innovation.
5. **Inclusive Assessments:** Adapting assessment methods to cater to diverse learning needs and styles, experiences, and backgrounds, ensuring fairness and understanding in evaluation.
6. **Honoring the Knowledge and Practices of Communities:** Integrating community-driven knowledge and local perspectives into interdisciplinary curricula to foster more rooted and contextually relevant epistemologies.
7. **Diverse and Innovative Perspectives on Education in the 21st Century:** Exploring how bringing varied cultural, historical, and societal viewpoints can enhance and deepen educational experiences towards holistic meaning making.

Abstract submissions of 250–400 words (excluding references) will be evaluated for clarity and organization. Abstracts should include the following components: a statement of the main argument and rationale for research, research questions, an overview of methodology, [anticipated] findings, implications, keywords, and references. Please note that work-in-progress research projects are welcome.

Eligibility: This conference is open to all graduate students who are interested in sharing their work, either in-person with colleagues or in virtual and hybrid spaces. The pre-conference poster session will be held in-person only.

For questions or accommodations, please reach out to the GSC Committee at gsc@education.illinois.edu.

**Deadline to submit research proposals:
Tuesday, December 3, 2024 at 11:59 pm CST**

**For more details on submissions, visit
<https://education.illinois.edu/gsc>**

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