



College of
Graduate Studies

**Knights
Focus**



COMPETITION OVERVIEW

- Knights in Focus invites graduate students to share how their experiences are shaping the future.
- Created to spotlight our graduate community.
- Open to all **currently enrolled master's and doctoral students** at UCF.
- Participants must maintain enrollment through at least the Spring 2026 term.



HOW IT WORKS



Create a video (<60 seconds) that introduces your area of **research or creative work** and reflects on how your **UCF experience** has shaped your academic or professional journey.



All video submissions will be evaluated by a panel of UCF students, faculty, and staff.



Selected finalists' videos will be shared on the College of Graduate Studies social media platforms.



Graduate students will vote for their favorites through Qualtrics.

AWARDS



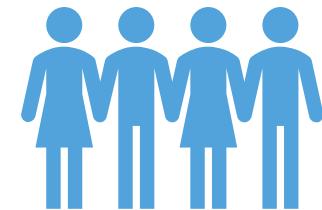
\$3,000

WINNER



\$2,000

RUNNER-UP



\$1,000

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

GETTING STARTED – CRAFT YOUR MESSAGE

Discuss your research/creative work and how UCF has influenced your academic/professional journey

- Use a strong hook
- Keep it concise and engaging
- Use layman's terms
- Consider your audience

Avoid sharing confidential information or addressing topics that are sensitive, offensive, or potentially controversial



REVIEW THE REQUIREMENTS

- Keep your video to **60 seconds or less**
- Include your name, academic program, and area of research/creative focus
- Use clear, steady footage (no blurry or pixelated shots)
- Make sure your voice/audio is clearly understandable
- Use a DSLR, mirrorless camera, or smartphone.
Do not use webcams and Zoom recordings.
- Submit your video as an MP4 or MOV file. Use at least 1080p at least 24 frames per second (fps) for resolution (higher quality is encouraged).



RESOURCES TO HELP YOU

UCF Libraries offers free high-end audio and visual equipment rentals. Check out cameras, microphones, and other tools.



Students also have free access to LinkedIn Learning where they can find helpful training resources.

FILMING TIPS

- Use good lighting
- Make sure your space is neat
- Dress presentably
- Record yourself in a relevant environment
- Include footage of subject matter
- Have a friend record you
- Keep it natural, don't read from a script
- Limit background noise and echo by using a mic

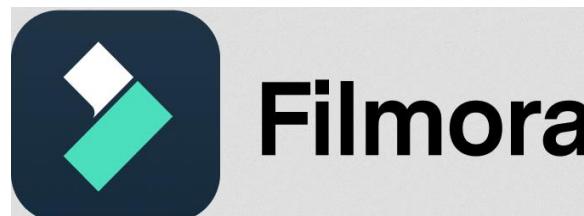


VIDEO EDITING TIPS

- Cut out long pauses and distracting interruptions
- Make sure pacing is consistent between cuts
- Add footage of the subject matter for visual interest
- Limit use of flashy effects and transitions
- On-screen text should have good contrast
- Balance audio levels so narration is prominent
- Royalty free music if using background music
(ex. Creative commons needs credit)



PLATFORMS FOR EDITING



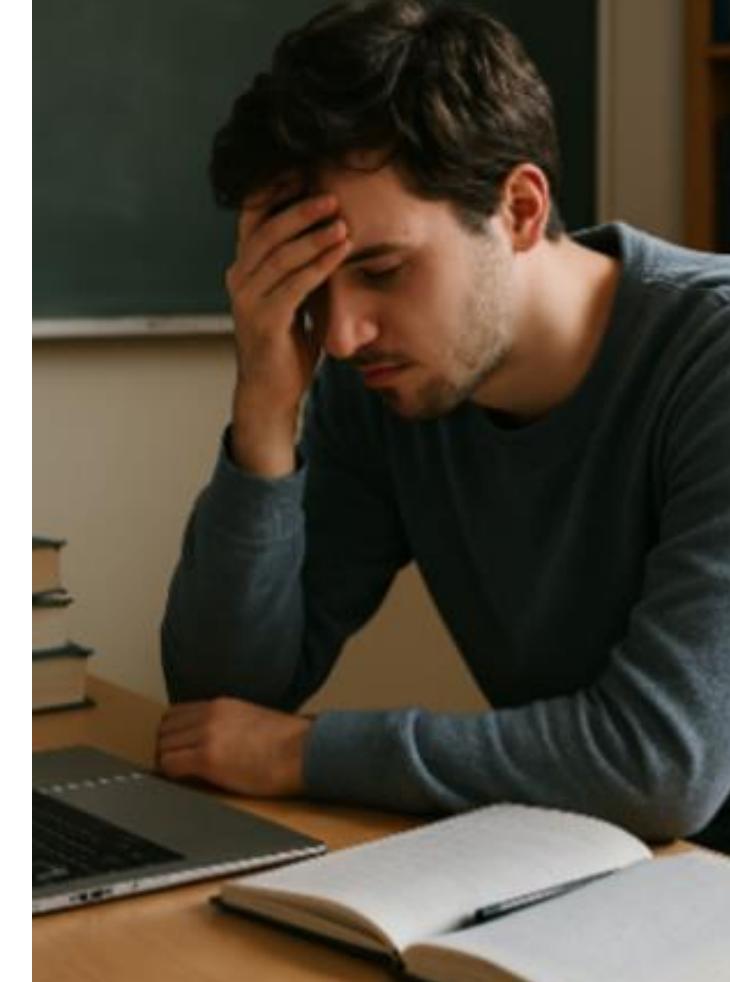
Canva

HITFILM4
EXPRESS



Grounds for Disqualification

- Violation of competition guidelines
- Submission exceeds time limits
- Failure to submit a completed model release form
- Content submitted after the deadline
- Inappropriate, offensive, or discriminatory content
- Discussion of highly controversial topics or sensitive information
- Violation of copyrighted material or intellectual property rights
- Use of artificial intelligence (AI) to generate, edit, or enhance video content, audio, visuals, or other creative elements of the submission



Confidentiality

- Any data or information discussed or presented in video submissions should be considered **public**.
- We will not ask judges, reviewers, staff or the audience to sign non-disclosure statements.
- If your research is being/has been conducted under contract with an outside sponsor or includes confidential or culturally sensitive material, we advise that you **discuss your competition entry with your advisor** before entering.



Submitting Your Video

- Send your final video to graduate@ucf.edu by **January 30 at 11:59 PM (EST)**. Late submissions will not be accepted.
- **Must sign and submit the Model Release Form.** We will not consider entries submitted without this signed form.



Submitting Your Video

When you submit your video, you:

- Confirm that you created all content and did not violate any third-party rights.
- Grant the College of Graduate Studies a non-exclusive, royalty-free, worldwide, perpetual license to use, publish, and share your video in print, digital, and promotional formats.

You will retain full ownership of your work.



Celebrate Your Hard Work

Join us for a viewing party during UCF Student Research Week, where we'll celebrate and showcase our top submissions.

Tuesday, March 24

2pm – 3:30pm

Graduate Student Center Presentation Room

Trevor Colbourn Hall 208



