

## **RESEARCH PROJECT OUTLETS**

With some pre-planning, graduate students can use class research projects to make conference presentations. Attending and presenting at conferences makes students more familiar with the norms and habits of scholarship in the discipline. Material presented at conferences is often about two years ahead of current communication journals. Attending conferences allows students to meet and question the primary authors of much of the research they read in class. Your faculty advisor will be glad to discuss your participation.

The following are three annual conferences graduate students could attend:

1. The Northwest Communication Association Conference (NWCA) is a small regional conference held in April in Coeur d' Alene, Idaho. Papers or programs usually must be submitted for consideration in Jan.
2. The National Communication Association (NCA) Convention is held in November each year. Deadlines for the conference occur around February or March.
3. The Western States Communication (WSCA) Convention is held in mid-February. Deadlines for competitive papers are generally in September the year preceding the conference.

### **Guidelines for Conference Papers**

1. Any author is encouraged to submit papers to the interest groups for competitive selection. Papers may include research reports employing any methodology, theoretical developments or critiques, critical analysis, and in some cases, works in progress. Submitted papers should not have been previously published or accepted for publication. Submit each paper to one interest group only.
2. Submitted papers should include (a) detachable title pages with title of paper and author's identification and address; (b) a one-page abstract of the paper; and (c) normally, a maximum of 25 pages of text. No information identifying the author may appear in the paper beyond the title page.
3. Completed papers are to be submitted unless the interest group indicates otherwise.
4. Some interest groups sponsor programs for research in progress. Papers submitted to these programs should be designated on the cover page and generally should not exceed 10 pages in length. Be sure that the interest group you are sending your paper to accepts research in progress before submitting it.
5. Five copies of submitted papers must be received by the appropriate interest group program planner.

### **Guidelines for Conference Program Proposals**

1. Program proposals should focus on some unifying theme or concept relevant to research, theory or instruction in the area of the sponsoring interest group. Typically, a program will consist of a chair and individual presenters, though round-table discussions, performance venues or other unique formats are often welcome. Respondents may be included or omitted as appropriate. Innovative program proposals are sometimes encouraged.
2. Program proposals should include: (a) thematic title of program; (b) names, addresses, e-mail addresses and affiliations of all participants; (c) title and brief description of each presentation; and (d) any equipment needed for the panel.
3. Five copies of each proposal must be received by the appropriate interest-group program planner.