



Frequently Asked Questions

NORTHEASTERN EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION (NERA)

45TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

October 22-24, 2014

Marriott Hotel, Trumbull, Connecticut

2014 Conference Theme: *“Equity and Excellence in an Era of Accountability”*

Does my research project have to be complete to be accepted to NERA?

Not necessarily. In progress or nearly completed research will be considered for the conference, but the research should show the potential of being ready for presentation by the date of the conference. We encourage proposers to strongly consider submitting their in progress work as Roundtable presentations. This format facilitates greater discussion between participants and the audience, allowing you to receive input and feedback that could inform your research or help to overcome potential hurdles.

How are the proposal descriptive keywords used?

These terms are used in several ways. Specifically, these will be used to match the proposals to the appropriate reviewers, to place the proposals in the best-fitting sessions, and to assign appropriate discussants to the sessions. Please select the descriptor that is the best match to your proposal as your first choice and two additional descriptors as next-best options.

What is the review process like?

Reviewers are volunteers, who have self-identified as being willing to review proposals in the same topic areas as the proposal keywords. The program committee, according to the reviews and availability in the conference program, makes final decisions.

When will my research paper need to be ready?

Discussants must be able to review research papers prior to the sessions in order to properly prepare for discussions. You will be asked to e-mail your research papers to the Discussants by October 1.

Will a projector and laptop be available in my session?

Institutional sponsors will be supplying LCD projectors for each session. Arrangements only need to be made to have a laptop present at the session. The Chair of the session will arrange the laptop and file transfers to the laptop by email before the session. Presenters are expected to cooperate with Chair requests.

How do I prepare a free-standing poster?

Posters will need to be able to stand up on a table since no boards or easels are available at the hotel. Tri-fold foam or corrugated display boards are portable and inexpensive. They can be purchased at most office supply stores. Directions as to the size of the posters will be posted on the NERA website.

What if I am accepted to NERA but I am unable to attend the NERA conference?

Submitting to NERA represents a commitment that you intend to attend the conference if accepted. If something prevents you from being able to attend, and co-authors or colleagues cannot present in your place, you must withdraw your presentation *before* the session by emailing NERAconference2014@gmail.com.

You have several session options for submitting proposals. Are any considered less rigorous than others?

No.

The rigor of the peer review process is the same for **all** proposals submitted to the conference. Peer review allows NERA to maintain an appropriate level of quality for the experience of those presenting their research, as well as those receiving the research.

What is the role of the Chair?

The role of the Chair is to facilitate the organization of the presentation session. Duties may include collecting the papers, communicating with authors, managing audio/visual equipment, and ensuring the timeliness of the session. In some cases, the Chair would assist in facilitating discussion among the audience members and authors.

What is the role of the Discussant?

The Discussant is responsible for drawing from his/her expertise to comment on papers and presentations. The goal is to provide professional and constructive criticism and raise issues for broader consideration that connect to these works.

What are the conference registration fees?

The conference registration fees will be Professionals \$85; Retirees: \$20; Students: \$30. Late fees will be instituted after October 1. All registrants must also be NERA members. Information about membership and dues can be found on the NERA website (<http://www.nera-education.org/>).

Are my registration fees adjusted if I just come for one day or part of a day?

NERA makes great effort to keep registration fees as low as possible for all attendees; therefore, it is not possible to provide adjusted registration fees for partial attendance.

What is included in the Conference Hotel?

The Conference will be held at the Trumbull Marriott Merritt Parkway in Trumbull, CT. For the Conference, the hotel offers several different accommodation rates: single, double, triple and quad rooms. The rate for Conference rooms includes all meals during the conference. Rates for the hotel will be posted on the website in the summer.

How will I submit my NERA proposal?

An online submission system to submit proposals will open in early May.

If you have any further questions, please contact the conference co-chairs at NERAconference2014@gmail.com.

Thank you,

Pamela Kaliski, College Board
Ross Markle, Educational Testing Service
Javarro Russell, National Board of Medical Examiners
NERA 2014 Conference Co-chairs

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