



Frequently Asked Questions

52nd Annual NERA Conference - October 13-15, 2021

Trumbull Marriott Shelton, Trumbull, CT OR Virtual

When will a decision be made about the final format of the conference? The conference team is closely monitoring updates to public health and safety guidelines. A final decision on the format of the conference (hybrid or virtual) is expected in early June. If the decision is made to hold the conference in a hybrid format, we deeply respect individual preferences regarding travel and comfort level regarding attending. Your submission to the conference matters greatly to the conference team, the broader NERA community, and to the educational research field. We will work closely with you to allow your work to be presented virtually, either through a live web conference or static presentation.

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 researcher should show the potential of the work being ready for presentation by the date of the conference. We strongly encourage individuals to submit 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 content areas used? These terms are used in several ways. Specifically, they will be used to match the proposal to the appropriate reviewers, to place the proposal in the best-fitting session, and to assign an appropriate discussant to the session. Please select the content area that is the best match for your proposal as your first choice and two additional content areas as next-best options.

How do the content areas differ from keywords used in previous years? The content areas were developed by combining one or more keywords into a more general theme. The table on the next page provides an illustration.

| Content Area | Keyword(s) |
|---|--|
| Solving Educational Policy Challenges | Accountability; Policy in Education, School Reform, and Politics |
| Innovations in Quantitative Research Methods & Resources | Psychometrics; Educational Measurement; Quantitative Methods & Statistical Theory |
| Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion | Social Context in Education; Diverse Learners; Test Design & Development; Use & Interpretation of Results |
| Higher Education | Postsecondary Education |
| Global Education | None – <i>New Area for 2021</i> |
| Alternative Research Methods | Qualitative & Mixed Methods; Program Evaluation; Cognitive Science; Noncognitive/Behavioral Skills; Research Methodology |
| P-12 Educators as Researchers | Computer & Educational Technology; Educational Leadership; Curriculum & Instruction; Early Childhood Education; Teaching & Teacher Education; Education & Psychology; Career & Technical Education |
| Developing the Education and Educational Research Workforce | Personnel Evaluation; The Professions; Graduate Student Issues |
| Miscellaneous | None |

What is the review process like? Reviewers are NERA member volunteers, who have self-identified as being willing to review proposals on the particular content area(s). The conference co-chairs make final decisions on acceptance and format, based on both the reviews and availability in the conference program.

When will my research paper need to be ready? Discussants must be able to review research papers before the session in order to prepare properly for discussion. You will be asked to email your research paper to the discussant no later than **October 1, 2021**.

Will a projector and laptop be available in my session? If the conference is in a hybrid format, institutional sponsors will be supplying LCD projectors for each in-person session. The Chair of the session will arrange to have a laptop present, and will also facilitate file transfers to the laptop via email before the session. Presenters are expected to cooperate with Chair requests. Those presenting virtually will do so using a dedicated Zoom link provided to session Chairs. Individuals preferring a static (pre-recorded) session should plan to submit their recorded videos on **October 1, 2021, but no later than October 6, 2021.**

What if I am accepted to NERA, but I am unable to attend NERA in person when the time comes? Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all presenters will be allowed to present virtually OR in person (if we go hybrid). Thus, we hope this allows everyone interested to submit proposals. Submitting to NERA is a sign that you intend to attend the conference either virtually or in-person if accepted. If we are able to hold an in-person conference, the decision to present in-person or remotely is completely up to you. Of course, possible sudden changes in public health and safety guidelines may not allow for an in-person conference. In this case, if you had previously planned to attend and present in-person, information will be sent to you about moving your planned in-person presentation online. If something prevents you from being able to present, and co-authors or colleagues cannot present in your place, please withdraw your presentation before the session by contacting the conference team as soon as you can so another researcher can have the opportunity to present.

What size should my poster be? If the conference is in a hybrid format and you intend to present in-person, easels with foam display boards will be available for poster presentations. Poster size should be no larger than 36 inches x 48 inches. The display should be easily readable and clear from a distance of at least 3 feet from the board. The title, author, and affiliation should be in a 36-point font or larger. The rest of your lettering should be in at least a 28-point font. Be sure to include diagrams, figures, photos, bulleted text, or other visuals that describe your research. Presenters should also prepare four PowerPoint slides (maximum) which will be shared electronically prior to the poster session to give attendees a short preview/overview of each study. More information regarding posters, including virtual options for accepted presenters, will be posted on the NERA website once the final format of the conference is determined.

You have several session options for submitting proposals. Are any considered more rigorous than others? No. All formats are peer-reviewed methods for disseminating your research. 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 quality level for the experience of those presenting their research, as well as those receiving the research.

What are the submission parameters for theme-based paper sessions/symposia? Those presenting proposals for theme-based paper sessions or symposia are required to submit only one proposal for all papers in the session, within a maximum of 1000 words. The submission should include a description of how the papers are related to each other, as well as a short description of each of the papers that are included in the session. Lastly, proposers can indicate within the submission that they are submitting a theme-based paper session/symposium.

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 will assist in facilitating discussion among the audience members and authors.

What is the role of the Discussant? Discussants are responsible for drawing from their 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 the works.

How do Roundtable sessions work? Roundtable sessions offer the most opportunity for interactions among presenters and participants. Three to five researchers with similar interests are assigned to a table, along with a moderator with some expertise in the topic area. Individual researchers do not make a formal presentation as in a paper session but may provide a brief overview of their work and specific issues that they would like to discuss. Much of the time during a roundtable session should be devoted to discussion among the assigned researchers and the other participants.

Where can I go to determine the conference registration fees? Registration fees will be posted on the NERA website during the latter half of spring, once a decision on the final conference format is reached. There are three cost brackets: Professional, Retirees, and Students. Late fees are instituted after October 1, 2021. All registrants must also be NERA members. More information about membership and dues can be found on the NERA website (www.nera-education.org).



If the conference is hybrid (in-person and virtual), is there a special room rate at the conference hotel? Yes, NERA negotiates a special room rate for their members each year at the conference hotel. Room rates and information on how to register will be posted on the NERA website sometime after a decision is reached on a final conference format. Due to the potential hybrid format, there will be fewer rooms available at the negotiated room rate this year. More information about registering for both the conference and a hotel room can be found on the NERA website (www.nera-education.org).

If the conference is hybrid, are meals included with registration? Yes, NERA is pleased to provide meals with conference registration regardless of whether members stay at the conference hotel or not. Meals will be provided in accordance with public health and safety guidelines at that time. Please reach out to the NERA co-chairs about any dietary concerns or restrictions you may have at NERA.CoChairs@gmail.com.

How will I submit my NERA proposal? An online submission system will be available soon with a deadline for submission of **Monday, June 7, 2021 at 11:59 PM EDT**. You may contact the conference co-chairs with further questions at NERA.CoChairs@gmail.com.