Call for Proposals
53rd ANNUAL CONFERENCE
October 19-21, 2022
Trumbull Marriott Shelton, Trumbull, Connecticut

As a regional affiliate of the American Educational Research Association, NERA invites proposals for our annual meeting spanning all areas of educational research. We welcome proposals from new and experienced researchers and will consider both completed and in-progress research. Below you will find the conference theme, general requirements for NERA proposals as well as specific guidelines corresponding to the four session formats. For more information about the conference, including FAQs about NERA proposals, visit NERA at www.neraeducation.org.

Conference Theme: "Supporting Student Learning in a Dynamic Environment"

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted instruction and student learning in so many ways. Across the globe, millions of students took classes from home or through a hybrid environment for an extended period. Research shows that there is significant unfinished learning compared to pre-pandemic averages. The field of education is hungry for research-based initiatives and solutions to support student learning and well-being in this dynamic educational environment.

When considering your proposal submission, there are eight broad content strands to choose from, demonstrating the broad application of the conference theme in the field of educational research. These are meant to be general descriptions of the topics that may fit into the specific content strands. Although we strongly encourage session proposals related to one or more of the areas expressed in the conference theme, this is not a requirement for submissions. The section below outlines each content strand in more detail.

Unfinished and Remote Learning Challenges: There are so many questions surrounding the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on student learning and how remote, hybrid, and even in-person schooling has impacted students' growth and achievement. Investigations by grade, race/ethnicity, subject, region, and other variables are critical. Proposals related to these questions that can shed light on the path forward for students and educators are welcomed.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: The recent surge in advocacy for social justice reform presents an opportunity to educate ourselves in how we recognize, value, and respect differences in people and learners on many levels. This could be based on personal characteristics (e.g., gender, race/ethnicity, age, religion, language, immigration status, disability, sexual orientation), geographic characteristics (e.g., states, regions), economic characteristics (e.g., household income), or institutional characteristics (e.g., R1, HBCU), among others. Submissions around applying best practices particularly in test design and analysis, but more broadly in educational research, related to diversity, equity, and inclusion in this social context, including emerging data repositories related to civil rights and other relevant issues are encouraged

Measurement and Psychometrics: The ongoing expansion of the data science and AI movements, increases in computing power and programmer skills, and local, state, and federal data dashboards, repositories, and both analysis and visualization tools contribute greatly to enabling researchers to investigate a variety of issues related to education and educational measurement. Submissions are

encouraged regarding applications of established analytic and psychometric methods (e.g., predictive modeling, quasi-experimental designs), programs (e.g., R, Mplus), databases (e.g., IPEDS, NCES surveys), and innovative approaches (e.g., data mining, machine learning, use of Python, use of AERA-ICPSR PEERS database).

Research Methods: Education research methodologies are far from being limited to those that are purely quantitative in nature and/or emphasize educational measurement. Historically, the broader research community has welcomed and benefited from the contributions of those representing the qualitative, mixed methods, and evaluation disciplines. More recently, there has been further expansion to include scholars from those in cognitive science, neuroscience, industrial and organizational psychology, and economics. All of these perspectives together allow for the production of quality research regardless of the number of subjects being studied. We encouraged submissions focusing on nuanced methods for analyzing data and educational research issues.

Educational Policy Challenges: Challenges posed by the pandemic have persisted over the past two years. Such challenges include, how social culture has been impacted by the digital divide, the re-opening of schools, assessment of student learning and accountability, and how the inherent impact on students, teachers, administrators, and parents cuts across geographic and demographic lines. Submissions are encouraged regarding current research into ongoing and future challenges on these topics and how existing or needed data collections might inform education policy.

P-12 Educators as Researchers: Educators offer a great deal to the research community through their work, especially when currently facing challenges, requiring flexibility and creativity to provide students with the best possible educational experience and opportunities for classroom learning, whether in-person, hybrid, or virtual. On behalf of the Educator-as-Researcher Committee, this is an invitation for teacher researchers, practitioners, community members, school administrators, and education researchers to submit proposals on research projects that address issues such as equity and inclusion, culturally responsive teaching, deeper learning and rigor for all students, multi-tier systems for student support, social and emotional learning, instructional leadership, and inside- and outside-of-school learning.

Higher Education: Higher education has been transformed because of the pandemic and emerging questions related to the value of and access to a postsecondary experience. This has been reflected recently along social lines in the reconceptualization of campus life, along economic lines in how institutions may be struggling to stay afloat, and along instructional lines through distance learning. More prominently, there has been substantive change with the massive increase in colleges and universities adopting test optional policies and how this may affect the demographic profile of future incoming classes of undergraduate and graduate students. Proposals dealing with data related to general student and institutional research in higher education, particularly concerning issues related to the pandemic are encouraged.

Miscellaneous: While hopefully this year's theme greatly appeals to you, NERA has an honored tradition of welcoming submissions to the annual conference that may not necessarily relate to the primary topic, but are relevant to the field and to those attending the conference. Please be assured that submissions on miscellaneous topics will be evaluated according to the same benchmarks as all those under the other strands so that these viewpoints can hopefully also be shared with the NERA conference community.

Submission Requirements

- Complete information for author(s) including affiliation(s)
- Descriptive title (maximum: 15 words)
- Three content strands
- Description of paper to appear in conference program (maximum: 50 words)
- Proposal, NOT including tables, figures, and references (maximum: 1,000 words)
- Your proposal should include study purpose, theoretical framework, methodology, research questions, results, conclusions, and educational implications

Warning: Proposals with more than 1,000 words will not be accepted.

Submission Review Process

- Proposals must be submitted electronically by Monday, June 6th, 2022 at 11:59 pm EDT.
- 2 to 3 NERA volunteers will conduct blind reviews of each proposal.
- Each proposal will be judged according to the following criteria: educational or scholarly significance, perspective or theoretical framework, appropriateness of methodology, clarity of expression, and appeal to NERA membership.
- Proposal decisions will be emailed to first authors in mid-August. Details about session dates and times will follow after the program has been finalized.
- It is critical to meet the June 6th deadline to allow us time to have reviewers review each proposal, inform authors of proposal decisions, and finalize the program.

Session-Specific Guidelines – 2022 NERA Conference

When submitting your proposal, you will be asked to indicate which of the following session formats you prefer for your research. We encourage everyone to select more than one possible option, as selecting multiple options increases your likelihood of acceptance. Regardless of the session you choose, your paper will be subjected to rigorous peer review by NERA volunteers. As each format provides a medium for contributing your research to the field, all session formats are equally important. We hope to maintain a variety of sessions this year to maximize the educational experience for NERA conference attendees.

1. Individual Presentations

a. Individual Paper: Proposals should describe completed or nearly completed research to be presented in 10–15 minutes. Sessions will be organized so that 3–5 individual presentations will be grouped according to similar research areas. In most paper sessions, a discussant will be assigned to read the set of papers in advance and present a 10–15 minute synthesis, critique, or analysis of the set of papers to spur discussion.

b. Roundtable: Roundtable sessions allow maximum interaction among presenters and attendees, putting greater emphasis on the discussion. Each table will have 3–5 researchers with accepted papers organized around shared interests. Each session will have a designated chair knowledgeable in the research area to facilitate interaction and participation. When appropriate, a discussant will be assigned to a roundtable session as well.

c. Individual Poster: Poster proposals should describe a research project, either completed or nearly completed, that lends itself to a visual display and would benefit from informal individualized discussion and feedback. Similar to the individual paper presentations, each poster will have a discussant. Specific directions for the size of the poster will be posted on the NERA Conference website and are available in the FAQs in the next section.

2. Theme-Based Paper Session/Symposium

Proposals for this format should describe a set of 3–5 presentations organized around a common theme. The chair and discussant for this session format must be identified in the proposal. The format and procedure for these sessions are identical to the Individual Paper Presentation sessions.

Submission Format

At the time of submission, authors will be required to select from the list of content strands to categorize their proposal. The proposal submission form will be online and accessible on the NERA website starting April 18th, 2022. You can find the link to this proposal system here: NERA 2022 Proposal System

Call for conference volunteers and reviewers! NERA is a volunteer-based organization. We need your help to ensure a high-quality conference in October.

Volunteer to be a proposal reviewer

Volunteer to be a session chair or discussant

If you have any questions, please contact the conference chairs at NERA.CoChairs@gmail.com.