

Frequently Asked Questions

SHAPE America Proposal Submission Process

Please reference this document if you have any questions. We are happy to address any concerns you may have that are not covered within this carefully prepared FAQ. You may contact SHAPE America via email at proposals@shapeamerica.org.

When does the proposal site open?

In order to facilitate the collection of the more than 1,100 proposals we receive each year, the SHAPE America proposal submission site typically opens shortly after our national convention concludes. Information will be posted on the website and sent to the membership with regular reminders to work with your colleagues to develop content for proposed sessions.

When are proposals due to the SHAPE America headquarters office?

All proposals must be submitted online through the submission site by the deadline of Friday, July 12th at 11:59 p.m. ET.

Do I have to be a member of SHAPE America to submit a proposal?

No, you do not have to be a member of SHAPE America to submit a proposal.

How can I access the online proposal submission site?

Please visit the SHAPE America website and click on the Conferences & Events tab. From this tab you will be able to access the Call for Proposals link to submit presentation or research proposals for consideration.

Who will be reviewing the proposals?

Individuals who review proposals possess broad expertise across many specialty areas within our discipline, and they represent many job sectors (e.g. k-12, higher education, government, etc.). Their backgrounds represent the multidisciplinary subject matter areas relative to content presented during the national convention.

What does SHAPE America look for when it reviews proposal submissions?

SHAPE America utilizes an established set of criteria during its review of proposals. They include, but are not limited to, the overall quality of the proposal and relevance to the SHAPE America mission; stature of the speakers within the industry; appeal of the content proposed; content overlap to sessions that were held during the most recent convention; and the completeness of the submission.

When will formal notifications regarding submissions be sent to those who proposed a session for consideration for the national convention?

All submitters will receive a formal decision notice from SHAPE America in mid-October regarding their submission. If session planners have not been notified by the end of October, they should send an email to the SHAPE America office at proposals@shapeamerica.org.

How many programs are there associated with the national convention?

SHAPE America offers a plethora of tracks for presentation sessions, workshops, and half-day sessions. Research sessions include oral/poster and symposia sessions.

What are poster sessions?

Posters sessions are formatted to allow presenters to display their research and findings on a 4'x 8' poster board in the exhibit hall. All accepted abstracts must represent completed studies that include results. During these presentations, presenters facilitate discussion with attendees.

What is an oral session?

An oral session is programmed to allow presenters the opportunity to discuss their research during a brief verbal presentation followed by a few minutes to answer questions from participants.

What is a symposia session?

Symposia sessions involve a verbal presentation of a series of related research abstracts by several researchers. Generally, there are 3-5 researchers who present their related works during a symposium, which can range in length from 75 to 120 minutes. Symposia submissions must be completed by including multiple abstracts within one submission. Please note: If you have only one paper/study to submit, it should be submitted as an abstract. All abstract submissions must describe original, data-based research (quantitative, qualitative, historical, or philosophical) that has been completed at the time of submission and with specific results reported. The paper must not be accepted for publication (or already published) at the time the abstract is submitted, and it must not be presented elsewhere prior to the upcoming SHAPE America National Convention & Expo.

How do I begin the process of submitting a proposal?

To submit a proposal, please visit the SHAPE America website and review the instructions prepared for the program type that interests you. When you are ready to submit your proposal, log in to the submission site using your SHAPE America account. If you do not have a SHAPE America account, please create one. Once your account has been created, you will be redirected to log in using the information you used to create your account. If you have difficulty creating an account or logging in, please reach out to the SHAPE America membership team at 1-800-213-7193. You

may submit a proposal as a **Presentation Submission, Research Abstract, or Research Symposium**. Please review the information prepared as reference prior to formally submitting to ensure that you submit your proposal into the appropriate category.

How do I edit my submission?

The system will automatically generate a confirmation email when you begin a submission, which will include your session title, abstract/session ID and a session password for future editing of your proposal. Your submission can be edited until the deadline of July 12th at 11:59 p.m. ET. To edit an existing proposal, return to the Call for Submissions webpage and enter the abstract session ID and password from the automatically generated email into the orange box on the right side of the screen.

How many proposals can I submit for consideration?

You may submit as many proposals as desired for review and consideration. However, please note that you may not be a principal presenter or presenting author on more than two accepted sessions across the SHAPE America convention program, which includes research. You may not amend your proposals after acceptance to add additional presenters if it is found that the presenter is listed on other accepted sessions.

Why am I required to list myself as both a planner and a presenter?

Only presenters are listed in the online scheduler and in the mobile app. **If you are the planner (i.e. main contact) for your proposal, it will also be important for you to list yourself as a presenter** when entering the presenter data to ensure that you are listed on the online scheduler and mobile app. Note that we only communicate formal decisions and updates to the planner of submissions. It is the responsibility of the planner to communicate information to all presenters for their session.

Is there a character limit for a proposal submission?

There is a limit of 75 words per submission for both the session overview and objectives listed. This does not include speaker names, affiliations, city and state details, etc. The word limit specifically includes all characters in the text box of a proposed submission. The title of your proposal should not exceed the 10-word maximum. The limit is increased (500 words) for Abstract Proposals and Symposium Proposals.

When I tried to submit my proposal, I received an error message that information was missing. Why did I receive this message?

The system is designed to capture many required elements. If you fail to complete a field or make an error when entering required data, an “error” message will appear that will contain a list of

incomplete or erroneous items. You will have to go back and correct these errors before your submission will be accepted.

Can I withdraw my proposal after it has been submitted?

Yes. You can log in to the submission site prior to the deadline to withdraw your proposal from consideration. If you would like to withdraw your submission after the deadline, please contact SHAPE America via email at proposals@shapeamerica.org and formally request to have your proposal withdrawn from consideration. After a formal withdrawal, your submission cannot be resubmitted for consideration. Please provide your reference ID# and proposal title to ensure that the appropriate proposal has been withdrawn, especially if you have submitted multiple programs for consideration.

During submission of my proposal, can I request a specific date and time that my presentation be programmed for?

Upon submission of your proposal, it is outlined that you and your presenters must be available *anytime* during the week of the scheduled national convention. Therefore, we do not accept requests for specific programming dates. If you withdraw your proposal after you have been notified of your presentation date and time, it will be recorded for reference and impact the decision to accept future proposals from you.

Why do I have to pick an intended audience?

The intended audience chosen allows SHAPE America program staff to develop the schedule of sessions. It helps us avoid scheduling similar sessions based on content and allows participants to select sessions that interest them while avoiding significant content overlap.

What if my proposal covers multiple tracks?

If you believe that your proposal covers multiple disciplines, we suggest that you submit your proposal to the track that most closely fits the general topic area. You may only select one track for your proposal submission.

Why does the Research Program only accept poster/abstract proposals?

The Research Program is designed to allow speakers to present original, data-based research (quantitative, qualitative, historical, or philosophical) that has been completed prior to the convention with specific results reported.