

**Graduate Student Paper Competition Guidelines**  
**Western Section, American Society of Animal Science (WSASAS)**  
*Guidelines and Score Sheet*

**Purpose:** To provide graduate students with opportunities to develop and advance their abilities to communicate scientific data in oral and written formats.

**Eligibility and Requirements:** Graduate students that wish to compete in the Graduate Student Paper Competition MUST be current members of WSASAS; please verify membership BEFORE submitting a paper. Graduate students enrolled in institutions outside the WSASAS must pay an additional \$10 fee to add a WSASAS membership to their current ASAS membership. Membership forms require the signature of an advisor to verify the student's enrollment. Please direct questions concerning membership status to ASAS headquarters (asas@asas.org).

Students may compete in the WSASAS Graduate Student Paper Competition as many times as they desire during their M.S. and Ph.D. programs. If a student places first, they are ineligible to compete in future competition events.

Contestants are encouraged to attend the WSASAS Awards Banquet. WSASAS will cover banquet fees for Graduate Student Paper Competition contestants.

**Deadlines:** Contestants MUST submit an abstract and proceedings paper by the due date for general meeting abstracts and proceedings. The deadlines are not different for the Graduate Student Paper Competition than the general meeting deadlines, and no exceptions will be granted. See the WSASAS Meeting website for information on due dates and submission guidelines.

All publication charges required for submission of a proceedings paper to the WSASAS apply for the Graduate Student Paper Competition. Please read and adhere to the *Translational Animal Science* Instruction for Authors, which is available on the ASAS website under *Translational Animal Science* Instructions to Authors, [https://academic.oup.com/tas/pages/General\\_Instructions](https://academic.oup.com/tas/pages/General_Instructions).

**Competition Process:** The competition consists of two graded categories, written (proceedings) and oral. Judges will individually score the proceedings papers and oral presentations. Following the conclusion of the presentations, the judges will meet and compile scores for both criteria and vote on the first, second, and third places. Winners will be announced at the WSASAS Awards Banquet.

**Instructions, Sample Proceedings, and Score Sheets:**

Preparation of competition papers are to adhere to *Translational Animal Science* style and formatting, specific instructions are described in the *Translational Animal Science* Instructions to Authors. With the following exceptions:

1. Running Header should include the words: Graduate Competition followed by the running header (i.e., Graduate Competition: Reproductive performance in beef heifers)
2. Manuscript should be no more than 18,000 keystrokes, 20 citations, and contain up to 4 tables or figures.

Oral presentations must follow the general format for scientific presentations. All presentation instructions are available on the WSASAS Meeting and Submission websites.

## WSASAS Graduate Student Paper Competition Score Sheet – Written Presentation

Written Presentation Presenter \_\_\_\_\_

**1. WSASAS Proceedings Format .....(5 points) \_\_\_\_\_**

- 1.1. Follows TAS formatting for manuscript submission
- 1.2. Use of references minimized to those most pertinent ( $\leq 3$  per concept).
- 1.3. Non-standard abbreviations defined and used according to TAS style and form guidelines.
- 1.4. Literature citations follow TAS style and format guidelines.
- 1.5. Manuscript length ( $\leq 18,000$  keystrokes; 20 Citations; 4 Figures/Tables).

**2. Introduction .....(5 points) \_\_\_\_\_**

- 2.1. Research justified relative to previous work (i.e., rationale)
- 2.2. Included research objective(s).
- 2.3. Clearly stated or demonstrated hypothesis(s).
- 2.4. Avoided extensive review of literature.

**3. Materials and Methods .....(7 points) \_\_\_\_\_**

*Explicitly described or cited recognized authoritative source(s) for the following:*

- 3.1. IACUC or equivalent approval statement.
- 3.2. Biological and analytical procedures.
- 3.3. Statistical procedures (included explicit representation of the statistical model and associated measures of variability and/or confidence).
- 3.4. Deviations from standard analytical and statistical procedures.

**4. Results and Discussion (can be separate or combined) .....(12 points) \_\_\_\_\_**

- 4.1. Tables and figures contained sufficient information to interpret results.
- 4.2. Key points related to data in tables and figures were explained without excessive repetition.
- 4.3. Interpreted results clearly in terms of underlying mechanisms.
- 4.4. Integrated pertinent results from the literature.
- 4.5. Included sufficient evidence in support of or in contrast to the research hypothesis(s) and allowed for the reader to infer a conclusion(s).
- 4.6. Avoided unwarranted extrapolation of results.

**5. Implications .....(6 points) \_\_\_\_\_**

*Explained without abbreviations, acronyms, or citations, what the results imply for animal production and/or biology.*

**6. Scientific Merit .....(5 points) \_\_\_\_\_**

*The merit of the research must be evaluated on the basis of its rationale, impact on animal production, and/or the advancement of important scientific principles.*

**Written Score ..... (maximum 40 points) \_\_\_\_\_**

## WSASAS Graduate Student Paper Competition Score Sheet – Oral Presentation

**Oral Presentation Presenter** \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Delivery .....(15 points)** \_\_\_\_\_

*Included:*

- 1.1. Good eye contact with audience.
- 1.2. Distinct voice.
- 1.3. Smooth presentation flow and style (e.g., well organized).
- 1.4. Focused attention towards important points during presentation.
- 1.5. Use of notes was minimized.

**2. Presentation .....(15 points)** \_\_\_\_\_

*The presentation:*

- 2.1. Followed the manuscript.
- 2.2. Included informative and complete sections:
  - 2.2.1. Introduction,
  - 2.2.2. Research objective(s),
  - 2.2.3. Hypotheses,
  - 2.2.4. Materials and Methods,
  - 2.2.5. Results and Discussion
  - 2.2.6. Conclusions or summary, and
  - 2.2.7. Implications.
- 2.3. Stimulated questions and discussion.
- 2.4. Was 10 to 12 minutes in length?

**3. Visual Aids .....(15 points)** \_\_\_\_\_

- 3.1. Was easily readable.
- 3.2. Made appropriate use of color and enhancements (e.g., animation).
- 3.3. Captured the attention of the audience.
- 3.4. Information on single slides was limited to 1 or 2 key points.
- 3.5. Maximized content without being verbose.

**4. Knowledge of Subject Matter & Discussion of Research .....(15 points)** \_\_\_\_\_

- 4.1. Conclusions and implications were communicated properly within the context of pertinent literature.
- 4.2. Appropriate emphasis was placed on key results.
- 4.3. Adequate explanation was given in support of experimental approach.
- 4.4. Data were interpreted correctly.
- 4.5. Limitations of the research were recognized.
- 4.6. Questions were answered concisely, accurately, and within the scope of the research and pertinent literature.
- 4.7. Potential for future research was identified and acknowledged.

**Oral Score ..... (maximum 60 points)** \_\_\_\_\_