



Guidelines for Electronic Abstract Submission

As you prepare for submitting an abstract for the Sigma event, please keep the following items in mind.

Please read through each section carefully prior to submitting an abstract. If you have further questions, contact abstracts@sigmanursing.org.

General Information

- Note: Peer reviewers will be using a rubric to review your abstract submission. See the conference rubric for more information.
- Completed work or projects may be submitted for either oral or poster presentation. If the work or project is not yet complete at the time of submission, the abstract may only be submitted as a poster presentation.
- If successfully reviewed, final abstract acceptance will be conditional upon registration by the primary presenting author. *
 - *Please see the Sigma Presenter Acceptance Policy regarding accepted presenters who do not present. Accepted presenters who do not attend will be sent a follow-up letter explaining the policy for “no-shows.”
- Presenters assume all costs related to travel, accommodations, and other expenses related to their presentation.
- The primary presenting author should be listed first in the order of authors. All communications will be directed to the primary presenting author only.
- In addition to the abstract, a profile for each author (contact and biographical information) and conflict of interest form is required.
 - Please remember to include any and all members of your team or anyone whom you may wish to give credit to for the work you are submitting. Once the abstract submission deadline has passed, you may not be able to add authors/presenters to the abstract.
- Abstracts, presentation slides, and author information will be uploaded to Sigma’s Virginia Henderson Global Nursing e-Repository with the authors’ permission.
- Sigma is committed to worldwide collaboration. Please include global implications as relevant to your work.

Submission Process

- Abstracts and references should only be submitted in English.
- Abstracts should be between 300-500 words. The title, presenter information, content outline, and references should not be included in the body of the abstract. In-text citations, however, are appropriate. These citations will be included in the overall word count. Full references are required in an additional field.
- The use of a word processing program, rather than the submission form, is recommended for composing the abstract. Please check spelling, word count, and conformation to the guidelines prior to copying the abstract onto the submission form.
- All abstract and presentation materials must be in compliance with international copyright laws.
- Abstract title, content, and presentation focus should be original (not previously

published or presented). We recognize that a study, project, or work may yield multiple findings and subsequently several original publications or presentations. To be eligible to present, submissions must contain an original title, abstract text, and subsequent presentation content (i.e., different view, perspective, or focus).

- **Submission Due Date:** Submit all abstracts no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Submission Deadline Date stated on the event website.
- An email with submission ID # and a password will automatically be sent to the email included on the first page of the submission once the first page has been submitted. The link within this email can be used to access the submission at any time prior to the submission deadline. The ID # will be used for uploading the PowerPoint presentation or PDF of the poster if the abstract is accepted for presentation.
- An individual may submit more than one abstract; however, if successfully reviewed, only one oral and one poster submission will be accepted for presentation in a given category. Work cannot be submitted for both an oral and a poster presentation.
- Abstract submissions that are incomplete after the submission deadline will not be eligible for presentation and will no longer be accessible by the authors.
- Email confirmation of completed abstract submissions will be sent to the primary presenting author only upon receipt of the complete submission.
- Email notification of abstract acceptance will be sent to the primary presenting author only approximately 1 month after the Submission Deadline Date. Only the primary presenting author is required to complete this form.
- The authors' failure to return the "intent to present" information will disqualify the abstract from presentation.
- PowerPoint presentation or poster PDF must be uploaded by the identified deadline. No audiovisual (A/V) capability will be available for any oral presentation that is not uploaded by the deadline.

Submission Guidelines

A complete oral or poster presentation submission includes the following:

- Title Step
 - Title (Maximum of 15 words)
 - Submitter's Email Address
 - Abstract Describes (Select "Completed Work/Project" or "Ongoing Work/Project")
 - Preferred Presentation Format/Category
 - This is the format in which the author prefers to present.
 - Poster (only option if ongoing project)
 - Oral
 - Either

- This submission is applicable to the following category:
 - Clinical
 - Academic
 - Students
 - Leaders
 - Researchers
- Keywords Step
 - Enter three (3) keywords or phrases that relate to the topic, practice setting, and/or target audience.
 - Three (3) keywords are required.
- Abstract Text Step
 - The abstract should be a minimum of 300 words and not more than 500 words.
 - We suggest that abstracts be developed in a word processing program before accessing the online submission form. Use the spell check and word count features of your word processor to check the text of the abstract before submitting it. There is no need to shorten lines so that they fit inside the box; the text will wrap automatically to fit.
 - Please remove all references to the title and author information on the abstract before completing the submission.
 - Authors should review the information submitted very carefully for spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors. It will not be possible to change any information in the abstract once it is uploaded and posted to the Virginia Henderson Global Nursing e-Repository.
- Bibliographic References Step
 - Recommended references should include more than five scholarly references (e.g., science journal articles, books). References should be recent and/or appropriate for the abstract (references should be no older than 5 years, unless they are a seminal work). A consistent format style should be utilized with less than one error.
- Author Step – This is the step where all authors or contributors should be listed. No additional authors can be added after the submission deadline.
 - Search by email address of first author.
 - If email address found, click the radial button next to the appropriate name and click "select" to choose or "select and edit" to choose and edit the information currently in the system.

- If email address is not found, input all author information as follows:
 - Given and Middle Name or Initial
 - Surname/Family Name
 - Degrees and Credentials (List the highest degree per discipline. If you have more than one degree in a single discipline, list only the highest degree. If you are a student nurse and have not completed a degree at this time, please put "SN" in this field.)
 - Education
 - Undergraduate student
 - Diploma
 - Associate's
 - Baccalaureate
 - Master's
 - Doctorate
 - I am not a nurse
 - Email Address (Should already be completed with the address input to search for author)
 - Alternate Email Address (Not required, but helpful if there are any issues with receiving email on the first email address from a bulk mail server)
 - Sigma Chapter (If you are a member, please select your primary chapter only.)
 - Author Summary (Provide professional expertise as a speaker introduction. This would be read aloud prior to the session or printed in brochures or marketing materials and should be written in third person. Include what the audience should know about you that relates to the educational content you are about to provide. This should be short [minimum of 25 words, maximum of 75 words] and specific to your professional background.)
 - Institution/Organization Name
 - Position Title
 - Department/Group
 - Address (two lines available)
 - City
 - State/Province
 - ZIP/Postal Code
 - Country
 - Phone Number
 - Fax Number (if applicable)
- If additional authors are needed, click "Add New Person" button under the table where name is shown and repeat the above steps.

- Participant Agreement Step
 - This is the standard form that all authors complete.
 - Based on past questions staff have received, the statement regarding original work is applicable only if the title and abstract being submitted are different from what has been previously published or presented.
- Disclosure Step
 - Each author must complete a conflict of interest disclosure form.
 - A link to complete the form will be sent to each additional author when added as a contributing author to the email address provided to the system.
 - Do you have a conflict or perceived conflict based on information provided on the screen? Respond yes or no. If response is yes, a table appears for completion to explain the conflict.
 - All disclosures must be completed to be considered a complete submission.
 - Click “Save and Continue” to complete the submission.
- Confirmation Step
 - This step is a confirmation of all the materials that were put into the system.
 - Nothing is required on this page, but it can be printed for authors’ records.

Presentation options include the following:

- Oral Presentations:
 - Individual abstract (20-minute presentation), to be included in a group of two abstracts around a similar topic grouped together by the program committee from individual abstracts accepted for presentation. A concurrent session is allotted 15 minutes for individual abstract presentation, with 5 minutes for audience questions.
 - Symposium concurrent session (45-75-minute presentation), a group of at least three (3) individual abstract presentations coordinated by a submitting lead author (organizer) concerning a common topic of interest. Each symposium session is scheduled for a total of 45-75 minutes. A symposium provides an opportunity to present work on one topic, often from multiple perspectives, providing a coherent set of papers for discussion.
- Poster Presentations:
 - A traditional poster session is a single abstract presentation by an individual or representatives of teams with an academic or professional focus. The work is peer-reviewed and presented on a large, usually printed placard, bill, or announcement, often illustrated, that is posted to publicize. It can also be a visual display of completed or in-progress work. An electronic version of the poster will be requested for use in awarding continuing nursing education contact hours to attendees as well as included in the Virginia Henderson Global Nursing e-Repository.

Contact Us

For more information, please contact abstracts@sigmanursing.org or call 888.634.7575 (US/Canada toll-free) or +1.317.634.8171 (International)