

The First Annual Molloy Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research Conference, or Molloy MURC as the planning committee has come to affectionately call the event, was held on April 26, 2024. It was the first Undergraduate Research Conference for Molloy, but we have high hopes that there will be many more MURCs in the future.

This event was created by a group of dedicated faculty members that started a grassroots movement as a Faculty Learning Community focused on promoting undergraduate research through the Faculty Professional Center. The 16 members of that original planning committee represented the School of Arts and Sciences, the School of Education and Human Services, and the Barbara H. Hagan School of Nursing and Health Sciences, and the current MURC 2025 committee is excited to welcome a new member from the School of Business to the group.

There were over 100 people in attendance at the event, and the day included eight oral presentations and a poster session with 21 posters. You can see the entire program and a recording of the oral presentations at <https://digitalcommons.molloy.edu/murc/2024/>.

Dr. Audrey Cohan, the Senior Dean of Research, Scholarship, and Graduate Studies, was at the event to welcome all the presenters, and she ended the day by presenting all the students with certificates and Molloy keychains. The committee thanks her for unending support for all undergraduate research here on campus.

Written by Melissa Gebbia on behalf of the MURC Committee - Madeline Craig, Hia Datta, Jennifer Elliott, Kimberly Johnson, Katherine Kim, Hyokyeong Lee, Li Li, Michael Marino, Tabitha Ochtera, Ann Marie Paraszczuk, Howard Ponzer, Brian Reed, Erin Reilly, Maureen Sanz, Liz Suter, Jamie Vitrano.

This year's event will be held on April 28, 2025, from 5-8 pm in the Hagan Building.



What is research?

- **From the Barbara H. Hagan School of Nursing & Health Sciences:** Research in nursing specifically contributes to the accumulation of knowledge and understanding within the field, which can lead to the development of new interventions and improved patient outcomes. Healthcare workers can use research methods to identify and address problems in practice, leading to innovative solutions and improvements in patient care. “Improvements in the diagnosis, treatments, and ongoing condition management of individuals with various medical conditions have contributed to improved rates of survival, which makes advances in healthcare research crucial.” -Dr. Mannino
- **From the School of Education and Human Services:** The field of social work involves research-informed practice and practice-informed research; social workers need to know objective facts about the populations they serve, the efficacy of their interventions, and the likelihood that their policies will improve lives. Educational research is an enormous field, but I guess I would describe it as research that draws on knowledge and methodologies from multiple disciplines, like psychology, sociology, anthropology, economics, and philosophy, to gain a comprehensive understanding of complex communities, learning processes, and issues within educational settings, often aiming to bridge theory and practice to improve teaching and learning outcomes. – Dr. Miranda
- **From the School of Arts and Sciences:** For me, research can be such an adventure. Even when I was young, I had an appetite to learn things that were just outside of what I imagined things to be. In my work, I still love the element of discovery in research where some insight or idea blows me away. The other wonderful thing about research -- despite how slow my process for researching can be and how I sometimes feel overwhelmed by how much I don't know about the subject I am researching -- is the sharing with kindred colleagues. Research is not a solitary process for sure; rather, it is something to bring to a community who might share the wonder of the discovery with me, help me process, reframe, or even repurpose it, maybe apply it in a new way for their own projects. I stay motivated when I'm researching philosophy and ethics, especially because I can help set new inquiries into motion or I can add something unique to a larger (usually urgent) conversation. - Dr. Scuro
- **From the School of Business:** For a company, research is akin to maintaining a well-stocked fridge at home. When guests arrive for dinner, you'll have all the necessary ingredients to create impressive and delicious dishes. Research serves as a company's fountain of innovation, providing the foundation from which groundbreaking products and services are born. - Dr. Chan



Student testimonials:



"The Molloy Undergraduate Research Conference was an experience that I am extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to participate in. Prior to the conference, I never had the space to present original research as an undergraduate student, and prior to coming into my last year at Molloy, it was an invaluable experience to prepare me for future academic endeavors in such a warm and embracing environment fostering academic excellence through research." - Audrey Michlig (she/her/hers), Honors History / Art History 25'



"My research experience at Molloy has been nothing but a great opportunity. I learned so much from working in the lab. I enjoyed working with Dr. Evans as well as using a pipette of any kind, 3D printing, changing or making fresh medium, and even creating assays. Working in a research lab made me realize that I want to do so much more than take care of my patients a couple of years from now. I want to pursue my MD/PhD degree so that I can find a cure for cancer. I want my patients who are going through cancer to continue living a long, healthy, and happy life where they can watch their families grow up to get their degrees/diplomas, get married, and have children. I enjoyed participating at the MURC back in April. I loved presenting my poster as well as my presentation to everyone who attended." - Doriah Thomas, Biology (Pre-Med)



"It was a wonderful learning experience to attend and have a poster presentation at MURC this year. As a Sigma inductee, I joined the Molloy Sigma Research Committee and became involved in a research project with the PhD Nursing students. This project exposed me to wonderful nursing mentors with my fellow students and professors, especially Dr. Mannino. By attending MURC, I was also able to see the hard work of other Molloy students outside of the Nursing School." - Kathy Leistner, Nursing

FAQ:

What is the format of the presentation?

For the Molloy Undergraduate Research Conference, there are two different formats for presentation: oral presentation and poster presentation. You can select one upon filling out your submission application. Be aware that there are limited spots for oral presenters because of time constraints, so if you apply for oral, you may be admitted to MURC as a poster instead. You would, of course, be alerted if that is the case.

How many people typically attend MURC?

This past year, we had over 100 people attending the conference! Our attendees range from fellow presenters and faculty members to family and friends. Depending on the format of your presentation, your interactions with the crowd will look very different. (Please see FAQ addressing differences in presentations).

What size can my poster be?

The MURC committee tries to accommodate different sizes for poster presenters— we even had a few” laptop” presenters this past year who utilized technology to show off their models. Please contact murc@molloy.edu if you have detailed questions regarding poster sizes/best practices for poster sizes, and view our Digital Commons page for our resource list.

What is the difference between oral and poster presentations?

Oral presenters will do a mini-type TED Talk. You will be chosen by your School Dean, and you will be presenting with a prepared PowerPoint to the entire crowd attending the conference. You will be provided with a clicker and microphone for ease of movement and communication and are allowed to bring any reference materials you need. For poster presenters, you will be presenting to a handful of people at a time, depending on how attendees move around the space to visit poster presenters. All presenters are advised to familiarize themselves with your presentation so that you can engage with your audience without having to reference your slides/poster excessively. This makes for a more engaging presentation for all! Remember— this is YOUR research. You know what work you have put in and are more than capable of discussing it. Please see our Digital Commons page for resources on presentation tips and advice.

SUBMISSIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE 2025 MURC



Have you recently done research at Molloy?

Would you like a venue to present your research?

Are you currently an undergraduate Molloy student (or were in Fall 2024)?

Present your undergraduate research at MURC 2025 on
MONDAY, APRIL 28, 5 -8 PM!

For more information, scan our QR code or email the MURC Committee at MURC@Molloy.edu.