



# HOW TO SELECT A SUBDISCIPLINE FOR YOUR RESEARCH PRESENTATION APPLICATION

created by the SACNAS Student Presentations Working Group

## Why does choosing the right subdiscipline matter?

Choosing the right subdiscipline allows SACNAS to match you with mentor-judges whose research interests closely align with yours. This will ensure that you receive precise field-specific feedback on your presentation and research. Subdisciplines are related to the scientific field that your research project is based on. This does not have to be the same as your major/concentration/degree, although for some individuals this may be the case.

## How to determine what subdiscipline your abstract best fits in?

1. Look at the list of subdisciplines. This comprehensive list has all the subdisciplines at the SACNAS Annual Conference with their descriptions/keywords. Find the discipline (e.g., Life Sciences, Chemistry, etc.), read each of the subdiscipline descriptions/keywords and select the one that most closely represents your research.
2. Still not sure about the specific subdiscipline your project falls under? Ask your research mentor (your professor, the postdoc, graduate student, or the lab tech you work with)! They are well equipped to help you narrow down the subdiscipline.
3. My research is interdisciplinary; how do I narrow it down to one subdiscipline? This requires some additional introspection. Think about the main scientific question that your research seeks to address. Use that as your guiding principle. Is the question more related to Ecology? Cell/Molecular Biology? Computer Sciences? Which audience will be the most receptive to your research question.
4. Still don't know where your abstract should go? Discuss with your peers and seek their feedback! If you have any questions, please contact [presentations@sacnas.org](mailto:presentations@sacnas.org).