

RACA-CON Applications Open Early September:

Application Preview, Inspo, & Info



Scholars and creators: It's that time of the year again! We'd love to give you a platform to share your work at CCS' interdisciplinary Research and Creative Activities Conference (RACA-CON), taking place on **Saturday, November 7, 2026**, during [UC Santa Barbara Parents & Family Weekend](#).

Featuring brief talks and poster presentations, RACA-CON brings together our students across **all nine CCS majors** to share their original work with an audience of peers, family, alumni, faculty, and staff. Whether your work is, for example, a story, a scientific or engineering discovery, a music composition, a piece of code, an art piece, or a mathematical proof, it belongs here.

[Watch past RACA-CON presenter reels for insights and inspiration across disciplines.](#)

How to prepare for the application

Before the application officially opens, here are a few key things to know:

- **What you'll need for the application:**
 - Proposed format(s) (talk and/or poster presentation)

- Presentation title(s) and abstract (brief summary)
- Application Endorser's* name & email (note: their signature is required prior to deadline)
- CCS Faculty Advisor's name & email (once the application is complete, including all signatures, they will receive a copy of your application)
- **Getting endorsed on time**
 - Please discuss your application plans with those who oversaw your project, including your Application Endorser and/or your CCS Faculty Advisor (see below). *At a minimum, you should give your endorser advance notice of your intent to apply and the timeline, since their endorsement is required by the application deadline.*
 - It is highly recommended that you submit your portion of the application by September 23, 2026 to allow time for your Application Endorser to review and sign ahead of the deadline. Note: Application Endorsers will receive a notification from the application system, however, you are encouraged to also directly communicate with them once the application is submitted so they know to look for it.
- **CCS Faculty Advisor vs. Application Endorser***
 - **CCS Faculty Advisor** = your assigned CCS faculty advisor. This is the CCS faculty member that you meet with to satisfy your quarterly advising.
 - **Application Endorser (faculty)** = The faculty member, or industry equivalent, who oversaw your specific project (this may or may not be your CCS faculty advisor). E.g., research advisor, creative mentor, industry staff scientist. If your work was directly overseen by a graduate student, please have the faculty Principal Investigator (PI) sign off in their place. Need help identifying your endorser? Reach out to raca-con@ccs.ucsb.edu.

- **Who should apply for RACA-CON?**

- **All** current CCS students that worked on a research or creative project and are interested in presenting to a general audience are encouraged to apply! To achieve this, presenters should aim to share their work in a way that can be understood, not just by experts, but by friends, family, and peers from all majors as well.
- *Note: All 2026 SURF recipients are required to participate in the poster session, and are also welcome to apply to present a talk.*

- **How do the talks work?**

- While the exact duration of the talks has yet to be finalized, each presentation will likely be allotted approximately 5–7 minutes, potentially followed by a brief Q&A session. The College will finalize and communicate these details following the application deadline.
- Presentations may include research talks, readings of literary works, musical performances, and similar contributions.

- **What are the poster requirements?**

- Standard poster size is 24" x 36" or 48" x 36" though all work that fits within an approximate 4x4 ft area is acceptable. With advance consultation, the poster session may be able to include original artwork, etc. For work that does not fit these dimensions (e.g. larger 2D or 3D), or for work that cannot be mounted using push pins, please email raca-con@ccs.ucsb.edu as soon as possible prior to the application deadline, so that the college can consider options for display.
- Note: CCS is planning to collect posters after the event for potential display in the CCS building. To request an exception, please email create@ccs.ucsb.edu.

Event details and updates will be sent out over email as available, and will also be posted [here, on the RACA-CON page of the CCS website.](#)

Application Process Timeline:

- Application Opens: by Friday, September 11, 2026
- Application Closes: Thursday, October 1, 2026 at 5 pm
- Acceptance Letters Sent: early October 2026
- Talk files due Monday, November 2, 2026
- Posters due Saturday, November 7, 2026 (bring with you to the event)
- Conference: Saturday, November 7, 2026 during UCSB Parents & Family Weekend

Please contact raca-con@ccs.ucsb.edu if you have any questions.