



2026 NCME Annual Meeting Call for Proposals

April 8-11, 2026 – Los Angeles, California

We are pleased to announce that the 2026 National Council on Measurement in Education (NCME) Annual Meeting will take place April 8-11. Wednesday, April 8 is the in-person training day, and program sessions will run from Thursday, April 9 through Saturday, April 11. The Annual Meeting will be held in Los Angeles, California.

We invite proposals centered on the theme **“Moving Measurement Forward.”** As the field of educational measurement continues to evolve in response to emerging technologies, diverse learner needs, and shifting policy landscapes, this theme calls on researchers, practitioners, and policymakers to explore innovative approaches that advance the science and practice of measurement. We encourage submissions that challenge traditional paradigms, highlight inclusive and equitable assessment practices, and demonstrate how measurement can better inform teaching, learning, and decision-making in a rapidly changing world. Research reflecting collaboration between psychometricians and content and assessment specialists is especially encouraged.

The Program Committee seeks a range of proposals related to educational measurement but especially encourages proposals about:

- psychometric and policy tools for measuring and improving fairness in testing;
- using classroom assessment data to guide real-time instructional decisions;
- interdisciplinary innovations, problem solving and systems design;
- pain points and practical difficulties in psychometric modeling and operational assessment;
- applications of artificial intelligence to improve efficiency and effectiveness in research; development, administration, scoring and feedback in educational measurement;
- research and symposia that build consensus around central publications (e.g., EM5, the Joint Standards) and improve application of these principles in society.

Please join us in shaping the future of educational measurement through bold ideas, rigorous inquiry, and collaborative dialogue.

1 Proposal Submission Timeline

NCME invites you to submit a proposal for presentations and training sessions at its 2026 Annual Meeting. NCME will accept the submission of proposals through **Friday, September 12, 2025, at 11:59 PM PDT**. We do not anticipate extending the deadline. The approximate date for notification of acceptance/rejection decisions is November 21, 2025.

The link to the submission system will be sent out separately and available on the NCME website when it is open.

2 General Conference Rules

The following rules have been established to encourage a wide range of participation by NCME members and minimize schedule conflicts that arise when sessions are arranged in the final program.

- 1) Members and nonmembers may submit proposals.
- 2) Submission of a proposal represents an agreement that presenting authors will register for and attend the Annual Meeting if their proposal is accepted. All presenting authors **must** register for the conference. Presenters who do not register will not be allowed to present.
- 3) The first author of every paper should be the primary presenter for that paper. This aligns with the expectations of conference attendees and should hold for both individual paper presentations and coordinated sessions.
- 4) Participants may have a maximum of three presenting roles. Roles that count toward this limit include presenting authors of individual papers, papers in coordinated sessions and innovation demonstrations, and speaking members in organized discussions. Roles that do not count toward this limit include discussants, session chairs, debate moderators, training session instructors, and invited speakers. Participants who submit proposals in excess of these rules will be subject to having one or more of their proposals disqualified from consideration. To better understand the roles of the chair and discussant, please see Appendix A.

Furthermore, the following rules have been established to ensure a high quality of presentations that are maximally beneficial for audiences in different sessions:

- 1) Authors presenting in individual paper sessions and coordinated paper sessions are **required** to submit papers to discussants a minimum of two weeks in advance of the 2026 Annual Meeting. Discussants have discretion to provide comments for late papers, but they are not obligated to do so.
- 2) Should you be unable to attend the Annual Meeting due to unforeseen circumstances, it is your responsibility to inform the Program Committee as early as possible. You must either arrange for someone else to assume your role in a session or withdraw your presentation.
- 3) The paper, presentation, demonstration, or discussion should not have been published nor presented at a previous NCME meeting or any other academic conference. In particular, papers presented at NCME must be substantively distinct from those presented at AERA.

3 Proposal Submission Guidelines

The Program Committee will consider proposals in the following categories:

- 1) [Coordinated Paper Sessions](#)
- 2) [Organized Discussions](#)
- 3) [Individual Paper Presentations](#)
- 4) [Graduate Student Research-In-Progress Paper Presentations](#)
- 5) [Innovation Demonstrations](#)
- 6) [Coordinated Poster \(E-Board\) Sessions](#) *New this year!*
- 7) [Training Sessions](#)

The Program Committee encourages working with colleagues to organize a coordinated paper session or organized discussion proposal. Individual papers are encouraged and will be grouped by the Program Chairs with related topics. To assist in creating a proposed coordinated session or discussion, the Program Committee recommends reviewing past NCME programs, professional social media profiles (e.g., LinkedIn), Google Scholar, and contacting NCME SIGIMIEs to identify others conducting research or doing work on similar topics. In convening a team, consider the variety of presenters, including contributors at different stages of their career from graduate students to more senior experts, or contributors that represent various perspectives of educational measurement including content specialists, item writers, assessment specialists, policymakers, and psychometricians.

3.1 Coordinated Paper Sessions

60- OR 90-MINUTE SESSIONS • LECTURE STYLE PRESENTATIONS ON A COMMON THEME
PAPERS, CHAIR, AND DISCUSSANT IDENTIFIED BY PROPOSERS

3.1.1 Formats for Coordinated Paper Sessions

The Program Committee defines a coordinated paper session as a set of papers organized around a central theme or topic. The Program Committee expects that coordinated sessions will be lecture-style presentations with 3-5 papers on different but related topics and a discussant. Preference will be given to proposals that have presenters from multiple organizations.

3.1.2 Specific Guidelines for Coordinated Paper Sessions

Proposals for coordinated paper sessions must identify all contributors. Authors' and presenters' names (up to 10 per paper) should be included, NOT blinded. Proposals must consist of:

- a session title of no more than 12 words;
- an abstract of no more than 200 words (for inclusion in the final program);
- a summary of the coordinated paper session of no more than 1600 words; and
- references, tables, and figures as appropriate.

The Program Committee may reject proposals whose titles, abstracts, or summaries exceed the word limit. References, tables, and figures do not count toward the word limits. Organizers may use their

1600 words however they wish, for example, a conventional 4-paper coordinated paper session may have a 400-word introduction with four 300-word paper descriptions that highlight the main methods and findings of each paper. It should be clear that the research will be ready to be presented for the annual meeting in April 2026. Proposals should also identify a discussant/moderator where appropriate.

Note to SIGIMIEs: We encourage SIGIMIEs to submit a coordinated paper session (or organized discussion) proposal in accordance with the guidelines in the [NCME Governance Handbook](#). Proposals will be evaluated along the same criteria as all other coordinated paper sessions (see Section [3.1.3](#)). Please indicate in the submission system that the session is being proposed by a SIGIMIE.

3.1.3 Review Criteria for Coordinated Paper Sessions

Review ratings for all paper proposals (i.e., coordinated paper sessions, individual paper presentations, and graduate student paper presentations) will be based on:

- relevance to NCME membership;
- scholarly or practical significance;
- coherence of methods, techniques, and modes of inquiry;
- quality of results, findings, and conclusions; and
- likelihood of completion by Annual Meeting.

3.2 Organized Discussions

PLANNED DEBATE • TOPICS WITH BROAD APPEAL • FLEXIBLE FORMATS • LIMITED SLOTS AVAILABLE

3.2.1 Formats for Organized Discussions

The Program Committee defines an organized discussion as a planned conversation among researchers and/or practitioners around a theme or topic. We encourage organized debates, discussions, and other innovative formats, especially those involving interactivity with the audience. Preference will be given to proposals that have presenters from multiple organizations and those that offer potential actionable solutions, in contrast to just offering opinions.

3.2.2 Specific Guidelines for Organized Discussions

Proposals for organized discussion sessions must identify all presenters (up to five), NOT blinded. Proposals must consist of:

- a title for the session of no more than 12 words;
- an abstract of no more than 200 words (for inclusion in the final program); and
- a summary of no more than 800 words.

The **summary** should include:

- the theme or topic of the discussion;
- the proposed format for the discussion;
- the significance or implications of the issues for discussion, including key questions to be addressed; and
- the perspective(s) that each presenter would represent.

The Program Committee may reject proposals whose titles, abstracts, or summaries exceed the word limits. The proposed format should be clearly motivated and clearly described. Proposals should also identify a discussant/moderator where appropriate.

3.2.3 Review Criteria for Organized Discussions

For proposals of organized discussions, review ratings will be based on:

- relevance to NCME membership;
- scholarly or practical significance;
- diversity of perspectives;
- likelihood of high-quality discussion; and
- likelihood of completion by Annual Meeting.

3.3 Individual Paper Presentations

60- OR 90-MINUTE SESSIONS • DIFFERENT FORMATS
PAPERS, CHAIR, AND DISCUSSANT IDENTIFIED BY PROGRAM COMMITTEE

3.3.1 Formats for Individual Paper Presentations

Proposals should describe a single paper written by one or more authors. The first author should be the primary presenter, although authors may present together. Individual paper presentations at the 2026 Annual Meeting will be in one of two formats:

- 1) a traditional lecture-style presentation of approximately 12-15 minutes, to be presented in a multiple-paper session with related papers grouped by the Program Committee; or
- 2) an individual presentation using an electronic board (eBoard) in a 60-minute session.

Authors must indicate their preferred presentation format, although the Program Committee may override these preferences to resolve scheduling constraints. Authors will be notified of their assigned presentation format as part of the proposal notification communication.

All papers accepted for lecture-style presentation will be assigned to a qualified discussant to ensure opportunity for engagement and discussion. Presenters should expect to send their papers to their discussants at least two weeks before the 2026 Annual Meeting.

3.3.2 Specific Guidelines for Individual Paper Presentations

Proposals for individual paper presentations must be prepared for blind review (i.e., author names should not be included in the proposal). Proposals must consist of:

- a title of no more than 12 words;
- an abstract of no more than 50 words (for inclusion in the final program);
- a summary of research of no more than 800 words; and
- references, tables, and figures as appropriate.

The **summary** should include:

- research questions,
- contributions to the field,
- methods,
- findings, and
- practical implications of their research.

The Program Committee may reject proposals that are not blind, or whose titles, abstracts, or summaries exceed the word limits. References, tables, and figures do not count toward the word limits. It should be clear that the research will be ready to be presented for the Annual Meeting in April 2026.

3.3.3 Review Criteria for Individual Paper Presentations

The review criteria for individual paper presentations are the same as those for coordinated paper sessions, listed in Section [3.1.3](#).

3.4 Graduate Student Research-In-Progress Paper Presentations

60-MINUTE SESSIONS • ELECTRONIC BOARD FORMAT

Graduate students, especially those with completed projects, are encouraged to submit proposals to any presentation category. Additionally, graduate students may submit a proposal for a Graduate Student In-Progress Paper Presentation. Papers submitted for consideration in this Graduate Student Research session must be research-in-progress with preliminary findings. Research-in-progress should reflect a clear direction, with defined questions, methods, or emerging analysis—not undeveloped or exploratory ideas. All presenters in this session will use the electronic board (eBoard) format.

At the 2025 annual meeting, generous donations from the NCME community supported travel for qualifying graduate students who did not have alternative funding. We hope that graduate students will submit papers anticipating sufficient support from their graduate programs and other scholarship and fellowship opportunities. Although NCME cannot guarantee travel support for graduate students at this time, we expect to have limited support for students in need as fundraising allows. We will provide more information early in 2026.

3.4.1 Specific Guidelines for Graduate Student Research-In-Progress Paper Presentations

Proposals should follow the structure and word limit guidelines for individual paper presentations listed in Section [3.3.2](#). The Program Committee will reject proposals that exceed the word limits. Proposals submitted for consideration in the Graduate Student Research-In-Progress Paper session cannot be submitted as an individual paper presentation nor as part of a coordinated paper session. The committee will reject all duplicated proposals.

3.4.2 Review Criteria for Graduate Student Research-In-Progress Paper Presentations

The review criteria for graduate student research-in-progress paper presentations are the same as those for coordinated paper sessions, listed in Section [3.1.3](#), and reviewers will be aware that graduate student work is in-progress.

3.5 Innovation Demonstrations

60-MINUTE SESSIONS • ELECTRONIC BOARD FORMAT

3.5.1 Formats for Innovation Demonstrations

Initiated by the 2022 Annual Meeting Program Committee, demonstrations are intended for sharing innovations that do not fit the traditional format of a research paper nor a training session. For example, the innovation could be a new app or software, a novel solution to a commonly faced problem, or a resource that can benefit the measurement community. Proposals that aim to sell commercial products at the conference will be rejected. However, we welcome proposals that introduce free innovations that run on commercial software.

Innovation demonstrations at the 2026 Annual Meeting will be in an individual electronic board (eBoard) demonstration in a 60-minute session.

3.5.2 Specific Guidelines for Innovation Demonstrations

Proposals for innovation demonstrations must be prepared for blind review (i.e., author names should not be included in the proposal). Proposals must consist of:

- a title of no more than 12 words;
- an abstract of no more than 50 words (for inclusion in the final program);
- a summary of the demonstration in no more than 500 words (see description below);
- any software packages required (if applicable); and
- references, tables, and figures as appropriate.

The **summary** should:

- 1) *Introduce the innovation itself.* Describe the problem it addresses, typical users (e.g., classroom teachers, researchers), and, if available, evidence of the innovation being put to use. One way to

do this quickly and clearly is through a value proposition statement (“This helps X do Y by doing Z”). The summary should clarify the practical utility and implications of the innovation and should not be written as a business case, a product roadmap, or marketing collateral. The innovation can be based on technology or based on creativity, logic, and argumentation without reliance on technology. The innovation should address the stated problem in a unique and novel way. It may build upon prior research, but should go beyond demonstrating minor updates to an existing tool.

- 2) *Explain what attendees will be able to do after the demonstration.* Attendees should walk away with a concrete new skill, insight, or technological support that they can leverage in their work without much additional research or training.

The Program Committee may reject proposals that are not blind, or whose titles, abstracts, or summaries exceed the word limits. Descriptions of software packages, references, tables, and figures do not count toward the word limits.

3.5.3 Review Criteria for Innovation Demonstrations

Review ratings for innovation demonstrations will be based on:

- relevance to NCME membership;
- significance of problem;
- elegance and practicality of proposed solution;
- quality of learning objectives; and
- likelihood of completion by Annual Meeting.

3.6 Coordinated Poster (eBoard) Sessions (*New this year!*)

90-MINUTE SESSIONS • ELECTRONIC BOARD FORMAT (WITH A BRIEF LECTURE COMPONENT)

3.6.1 Formats for Coordinated Poster (eBoard) Sessions

A coordinated poster session is a 90-minute session format that is a hybrid of a coordinated paper session and a poster session. This new category is ideal for in-progress or completed research. Each presenter will share a brief (5-7 minute) presentation of their electronic poster (eBoard) to all attendees in the first half of the session; the second half of the session will run like a poster session where each presenter stands by their eBoard and attendees can move freely through the room for discussions. The Program Committee expects that a coordinated poster session will contain 5-8 eBoards organized around a central theme or topic, and a chair. Preference will be given to proposals that have presenters from multiple organizations.

3.6.2 Specific Guidelines for Coordinated Poster Sessions

Proposals for coordinated poster sessions must identify all contributors. Authors’ and presenters’ names (up to 10 per poster) should be included, NOT blinded. Proposals must consist of:

- a session title of no more than 12 words;

- an abstract of no more than 200 words (for inclusion in the final program);
- a summary of the coordinated poster session of no more than 1200 words ; and
- references, tables, and figures as appropriate.

The Program Committee may reject proposals whose titles, abstracts, or summaries exceed the word limit. References, tables, and figures do not count toward the word limits. Organizers may use their 1200 words however they wish, for example, a 6-poster coordinated poster session may have a 150-word introduction with six 175-word paper descriptions that highlight the research to be described in the eBoard. Proposals should also identify a Chair for the session.

3.6.3 Review Criteria for Coordinated Poster Sessions

Review ratings for coordinated poster session proposals will be based on:

- relevance to NCME membership;
- scholarly or practical significance;
- coherence of methods, techniques, and modes of inquiry;
- quality of results, findings, and conclusions (for completed work only)
- clear updates and remaining open questions to explore (for in-progress research only)

Note to SIGIMIEs: We encourage SIGIMIEs to submit a coordinated paper session, organized discussion, or coordinated poster session proposal in accordance with the guidelines in the [NCME Governance Handbook](#). Proposals will be evaluated along the same criteria as all other proposals. Please indicate in the submission system that the session is being proposed by a SIGIMIE.

3.7 Training Sessions

SCHEDULED PRE-CONFERENCE • HALF-DAY OR MINI SESSIONS CLOSE ALIGNMENT WITH NCME MISSION

NCME training sessions are a vital component of the Annual Meeting and should serve the mission goals of promoting best practices in assessment and advancing the science of educational measurement. Training sessions will be held in person along with the Annual Meeting and can either be half-day (4-hour) or mini (2-hour) sessions. The four-hour format is typical for intensive measurement or methodological training. The two-hour format is suitable for shorter demonstrations or professional development (e.g., effective presentations, academic writing/publishing). If a session can be split into two-hour parts, we recommend splitting the sessions and submitting two session proposals. For example, a four-hour session could be broken into a two-hour session that introduces a theory with basic applications with software, and a second two-hour session that focuses on advanced theory and applications with software. Participants can choose the session(s) that match their knowledge, skills, and goals. Please note that if sessions are offered as a series, each series session proposal will be submitted and reviewed separately, and it is possible that none, one, or both will be accepted.

3.7.3 Specific Guidelines for Training Sessions

Proposals for training sessions must identify all presenters, NOT blinded. Proposals must consist of:

- a **title** of no more than 12 words. It should be as descriptive as possible to give NCME members a clear sense of what will be covered.
- an **abstract** of no more than 200 words (for inclusion in the final program). It should provide an overview of the session content, learning objectives, and the intended audience, and if there are any prerequisites for attending the session. Please indicate if attendees need to bring their own laptops and whether software needs to be installed prior to the session.
- a **summary** of no more than 500 words. It should highlight the relevance and importance of the topic to the measurement field, what attendees will be able to accomplish after completion of the training, and expertise of the presenter(s). If the session has been presented before, please indicate the changes and improvement(s) in the proposed session. If the session is related to software applications, please make sure the emphasis is on how the tool can be applied in practice, not as much on syntax or mathematical formulas. If a proposal session relies on software that is under development, please discuss the development plan to ensure the software will be released before the training session.
- a **schedule** of no more than 500 words. It should indicate the preferred time format (half-day/4-hour or mini/2-hour) and list activities and topics to be covered during the proposed session timeline. The proposed activities and topics should focus on what presenter(s) and attendees will be doing during the training. The session should be a balanced combination of instruction, activities, and opportunity for questions and answers.

The Program Committee may reject proposals whose titles, abstracts, summaries, or schedules exceed the word limits.

Presenters are responsible for communicating with attendees prior to the session and preparing all materials (e.g., slide decks, user guides, example software code, or special equipment for demonstration) needed for the session or providing attendees with information about how to obtain any suggested reference material or required software.

3.7.4 Review Criteria for Training Sessions

For training sessions, review ratings will be based on:

- relevance to NCME membership;
- quality of planned activities;
- quality of learning objectives;
- expected interest in the innovation from NCME membership; and
- likelihood of completion by Annual Meeting.

4 Call for Reviewers, Chairs, and Discussants

Please consider volunteering as proposal reviewers, paper session chairs, and/or paper session discussants. The success of the NCME Annual Meeting depends on this great service from the NCME community. You can volunteer through the proposal system, so please consider signing up to be a reviewer, chair, or discussant during the submission process or by emailing NCMEProgramChairs@NCME.org.

A description of the roles and responsibilities of chairs and discussants is shown in the Appendix below.

5 Closing

On behalf of NCME, we are looking forward to the 2026 Annual Meeting as an opportunity to hear and present new research, to share different perspectives on important topics, to engage with colleagues, to take advantage of learning opportunities, and discuss practical approaches to reconceptualizing best practices in measurement. Please submit your research, volunteer to be a discussant, chair, and/or a reviewer, mark the dates on your calendar, and get ready for an impactful conference next April in Los Angeles. If we can help in any way, or if you have comments or suggestions you would like to share, please do not hesitate to contact us at NCMEProgramChairs@NCME.org.

Sincerely,

Pamela Kaliski and Stefanie A. Wind
Co-Chairs, Annual Meeting Program Committee

Joseph Grochowalski and Wenchao Ma
Co-Chairs, Training and Professional Development

Claudia Ventura and Kayla Burt
Co-Chairs, Graduate Student Issues Committee

Amy Hendrickson
NCME President

Appendix

Roles and Responsibilities of Chairs and Discussants

Chairs

Chairs are responsible for ensuring the session runs smoothly and is successful.

Prior to the Conference:

- Remind authors to send final papers to the Discussant and Chair for the session. Please note authors must send copies of final papers to their Session Discussant and Chair no later than March 25th, 2026.
- Decide on time allocation for the session, and communicate this to the presenters and Discussant. A reasonable allocation is to allow equal time for each presenter, the Discussant, and Q&A.
 - For example, for a 90-minute session with four presentations, a reasonable allocation is 15 minutes for each presenter, the discussant, and Q&A.
- Collect the presentation slides from all presenters, to facilitate putting them all on the room's laptop before the session starts.

At the Conference:

- Ensure all presentations are on the room's laptop before the session starts.
- Introduce the session, presenters and paper titles, and the discussant.
- Keep track of time and help speakers finish within their allotted times.
- Decide on a method to notify speakers when time is winding down (e.g., 2-minute warning, 1-minute warning, time is up).
- Make sure to communicate this method to all speakers before the session begins.
- The session chair should not interrupt the presentation except for critical session quality or experience issues.
- Facilitate the Q&A session following the author and discussant presentations.
- Announce the end of the session and, if appropriate, suggest that attendees move to the halls to continue discussions.

Discussants

Discussants are responsible for preparing, in advance, appropriate analytical or critical commentaries on the significance and contribution of the papers presented in a session. Time allotted to the discussant will be established by the Chair as described above. Discussants serve an important role by offering comments on papers to assist authors in advancing their research and taking steps toward publication.

Prior to the Conference:

- Authors are instructed to send copies of their final papers to their session Chair and Discussant no later than March 25th, 2026.
- Discussants are under no obligation to comment on papers received after this date.
- Review the papers and prepare feedback that you can share during the session.
- Presentation slides are not required, though they may help facilitate understanding and discussion.

At the Conference:

- Equipment provided: screen, projector, HDMI cable, and laptop.
- Equipment presenter needs to bring: USB flash drive with presentation slides (if needed).
- While presenting, please pay attention to cues from the Chair about time remaining.