USC UPSTATE STUDENT RESEARCH JOURNAL
Submission Guidelines

Remember your audience! Your article will be read by mostly undergraduates (as well as scholars from a wide range of academic disciplines) and thus should be readable and comprehensible to anyone interested in the topic, regardless of their expertise. Yet, one should avoid devoting more than a few sentences towards the explanation of standard information that should be known to majority of the academia. Your manuscript should uphold a level of sophistication that represents the standards that USC Upstate strives to promote.

- All text should be double spaced and in 12 point font.

- **Title:** Should appear at the very beginning of the manuscript and should reflect upon the holistic nature of the idea behind the manuscript. The title should not be as generalized as to encompass myriad ideas. At the same time do not scare the reader away. Make the title appropriate yet appealing.

- **Authors:** List all authors below the title. The student who made that largest contribution to the project/paper should be listed first, followed by any additional students who worked on the project, and finally the faculty project advisor(s) should be listed last. Include full name, title/major, department affiliation, email address and phone number for each author. Please provide accurate email and phone information so that the Editorial Board can easily contact you during the final editing of your contribution.

- **Abstract:** A clear and concise yet engaging abstract that summarizes the author’s research and conclusions should appear next. This section should be between 200-250 words.

- **Introduction:** The manuscript should have a general introduction to the main topic of your paper. It should provide the necessary background information in order for the paper to be fully comprehensible. Include the purpose of your research, why it was conducted and what is important about it.

- **Methods section(s):** Describe the main procedure used to perform your inquiry. Explain the main methods used and why that particular procedure was used as well as the advantages and disadvantages.

- **Results and Discussion:** This section is a very important section of the manuscript. Do not focus too much on results; rather take this chance to examine the trends or implications in order to substantiate your conclusions. Your audience is more interested in the implications of the results and the conclusions you draw from them.

- **Conclusion:** This relatively short section should be the closing paragraph of your manuscript. In few sentences, summarize the purpose of the study and the conclusions that you made. Identify the strengths and weaknesses of the inquiry, so as to provide an insight into further studies. Though you already stated the importance of your inquiry in the introduction, here you are stating the importance of your findings and conclusions and their potential affect in your overall field of study.

- **Acknowledgement section:** Include any relevant acknowledgements you would like to make.

- **References section:** Make sure all references are cited within the manuscript at the end of the document. Failure to cite properly is a serious academic violation of USC Upstate’s Honor Code and will not be tolerated. Each reference number cited in the text should be enclosed in square brackets, and inclusive lists should use a hyphen to indicate a range, even for two consecutive numbers. (EXAMPLE: [1], [3]-[4], [7]-[9] NOT [1], [3], [4], [7], [8], [9] OR [1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9]) There is no need to use the term "reference" when citing a reference in text. EXAMPLE: In [23]. Sample references are listed below, PLEASE FOLLOW THESE STYLES VERY CLOSELY.

- **Tables and Figures:** Please include pertinent illustrations, pictures, and graphs in order to make the article more visually appealing to the reader. Each figure should be labeled with an explanatory caption.

- **Paper Length:** The manuscript should be at least 5 pages but no more than 15 (typed, 12pt font, 1 inch margin, double-spaced). Special exceptions may be granted. Please contact the Editor-in-Chief to obtain permission if this is a problem.

- **Submission Details:** Complete ALL parts of the online application form. The last step of the form allows you to upload your paper in word format. Only submissions in Microsoft Word will be accepted. You must name your Word file with the following format:
  - Primary Student Author’s Last Name and Primary Faculty Mentor’s Last Name_Year_USCUSRJ
  - Example: Smith and Jones_2017_USCUSRJ

  Complete the form and upload your paper before the submission deadline.
Sample References:

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Article in Published Conference Proceedings


Paper Presented at a Conference (Unpublished)


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Unpublished Dissertation or Thesis


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