



TSRT STUDENT COMPETITION GUIDEBOOK

Created Fall 2026

Student Competitions

- Emerging Scholars Paper Competition (formerly Award of Merit Scientific Essay Contest)
- Discovery Poster Competition (formerly Scientific Display [Poster] Contest)
- Rising Voices Presentation Competition (formerly iLEAD Presentation)
- Roentgen Challenge (formerly Roentgen Student Bee)
- RAD Runway Challenge

General Rules

The following rules apply to all TSRT Student Competitions unless otherwise specified in the individual competition guidelines.

Eligibility

- Participants must be currently enrolled in an entry-level medical imaging or radiation therapy program in the state of Texas.
- Individuals who are certified or registered as medical imaging technologists or radiation therapists are not eligible to participate. Students who become certified or registered after the submission deadline but prior to the announcement of competition results will remain eligible.
- All participants must hold a current TSRT membership.
- A letter from the student's Program Director, on institutional letterhead, verifying the student's current enrollment and eligibility must be submitted with each entry. For team entries, one letter may be submitted and must include the names of all participating students. The letter must be dated no later than the applicable submission deadline.

Participation

- Students may participate in more than one competition.
- A student may participate in only one entry per competition.
- Schools or programs may have multiple students and entries represented per competition.
- The number of students permitted per entry is:
 - Emerging Scholars Paper Competition: 1
 - Discovery Poster Competition: Up to 5
 - Rising Voices Presentation Competition: 1
 - Roentgen Challenge: Individual participation; no limit on the number of students per school/program
 - RAD Runway Challenge: Up to 5

- Students participating in the Roentgen Challenge, RAD Runway Challenge, or Rising Voices Presentation Competition must be registered for the TSRT Annual Meeting and Educational Symposium.

Original Work and Artificial Intelligence

- Entries may include work originally developed as part of a course or school assignment.
- Students are responsible for the work submitted under their name.
- Use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) must be disclosed on the competition submission form.
- Plagiarism or other forms of academic misconduct may result in disqualification.

Deadlines

- The general submission deadline for student competitions is March 1.
- The March 1 submission deadline and Program Director verification letter do not apply to the Roentgen Challenge.
- Rising Voices Presentation Competition participants must submit their presentation title, abstract, learning objectives, and outline by February 1 to allow sufficient time for continuing education approval. Their final presentation file is due April 1.

Judging

- The TSRT Vice President appoints competition judges who are not affiliated with schools or programs represented in the competition.
- Each judged competition will be evaluated by a minimum of three judges.
- Entries are evaluated using the scoring rubric established for each competition.
- Ties are resolved using predetermined criteria specified in the individual competition scoring rubric.
- Judges' decisions are final.

Awards

- First, second, and third place cash awards are presented in each competition. Additional awards may be offered as specified in the individual competition guidelines.
- Award amounts vary by competition.
- Awards are presented at the Annual Meeting and Educational Symposium.

Oversight

- The TSRT Vice President oversees the student competitions and is responsible for administration of the competition guidelines.

Emerging Scholars Paper Competition (formerly Award of Merit Scientific Essay Contest)

Showcase your knowledge and scholarly writing through the Emerging Scholars Paper Competition. Students explore a topic relevant to medical imaging or radiation therapy and communicate their ideas through a well-developed scholarly paper.

Entry Requirements

- Each paper must have one student author.
- TSRT reserves the right to limit the competition to 25 entries. The first 25 entries meeting all competition requirements will be accepted. Additional entries may be accepted as space permits at the discretion of the Vice President and availability of judges.
- Entries must be submitted through the designated online submission form by March 1.
- Papers must be submitted as a Microsoft Word (.doc, .docx) or PDF (.pdf) file.
- The student's name and educational institution should appear only on the title page so identifying information can be removed or blinded before judging.

Paper Requirements

- The body of the paper must be 2,000–3,000 words. The word count does not include the title page, abstract, references, tables, figures, or appendices.
- The paper must include:
 - Title page
 - Abstract of no more than 250 words
 - Introduction
 - Method
 - Results
 - Discussion
 - Conclusion
 - Reference list
 - Appendices, if applicable
- Papers may address original research or literature-based scholarship relevant to medical imaging or radiation therapy. For literature-based papers, the Results section should present the major findings or themes identified through the review.
- References and in-text citations must follow the current edition of either the American Psychological Association (APA) or American Medical Association (AMA) style.
- Papers must be double-spaced with 1-inch margins and use a readable 12-point font.
- Tables, figures, images, and other graphics may be included when appropriate and must be properly cited when obtained or adapted from another source.
- The paper must represent the student's own scholarly work. Any use of generative AI must be disclosed as required by the general Student Competition Rules.

Judging

- Papers will be blinded before distribution to the judges. Student names and institutional affiliations will not be provided to judges.
- Papers will be evaluated using the Emerging Scholars Paper Competition scoring rubric (see [Appendix A](#)).
- Judges' scores will be averaged to determine first, second, and third place.
- Ties will be resolved using the designated tiebreaking criteria on the scoring rubric.

Publication

By entering the competition, the student grants TSRT a nonexclusive right to publish the paper in print or electronic format. The student retains ownership of the work and may publish it elsewhere.

Awards

- First Place – \$200
- Second Place – \$150
- Third Place – \$100

Discovery Poster Competition (formerly Scientific Display [Poster] Contest)

Turn knowledge into a compelling visual presentation through the Discovery Poster Competition. Students create an electronic poster that explores a topic relevant to medical imaging or radiation therapy and communicates information clearly, accurately, and creatively.

Entry Requirements

- Entries may be submitted individually or by teams of up to five students.
- A student may participate in only one Discovery Poster Competition entry.
- TSRT reserves the right to limit the competition to 25 entries. The first 25 entries meeting all competition requirements will be accepted. Additional entries may be accepted as space permits at the discretion of the Vice President and availability of judges.
- Posters must be created electronically using the TSRT-provided poster template and submitted as a Microsoft PowerPoint (.ppt, .pptx) or PDF (.pdf) file. Failure to use the provided template will result in disqualification.
- Student names, educational institutions, and school/program logos may appear only in the designated area of the poster template so identifying information can be removed or blinded before judging.
- Entries must be submitted through the designated online submission form by March 1.
- One student should submit the entry on behalf of the team, if applicable.
- For team submission, the Program Director verification letter must include the names of all students participating in the entry.

Poster Requirements

- Posters must be created electronically using the TSRT-provided poster template. Failure to use the provided template will result in disqualification.
- Student names, educational institutions, and school/program logos may appear only in the designated area of the template so they can be removed for blinded judging. School/program logos or other identifying information must not be added elsewhere on the poster.
- The topic must be relevant to medical imaging or radiation therapy.
- Posters should communicate information clearly and effectively through an appropriate combination of text and visual elements. Charts, photographs, images, diagrams, and other graphics may be incorporated when appropriate.

- Information presented on the poster must be accurate and supported by appropriate scholarly or professional sources.
- References and in-text citations must follow the current edition of either APA or AMA style.
- Images, figures, charts, or other material obtained or adapted from another source must be appropriately cited.
- Posters containing patient information or images must comply with patient confidentiality requirements, and all patient identifiers must be removed.
- Any use of generative AI must be disclosed as required by the general Student Competition Rules.

Judging

- Posters will be blinded before distribution to the judges. Student names and institutional affiliations will not be provided to judges.
- Posters will be evaluated using the Discovery Poster Competition Scoring Rubric (see [Appendix B](#)).
- Judges' scores will be averaged to determine first, second, and third place.
- Ties will be resolved using the designated tiebreaking criteria on the scoring rubric.

Display at the Annual Meeting and Educational Symposium

Eligible posters will be displayed electronically on meeting screens between educational sessions at the TSRT Annual Meeting and Educational Symposium.

Awards

- First Place – \$150
- Second Place – \$100
- Third Place – \$50

Rising Voices Presentation Competition (formerly iLEAD Presentation)

Take the stage and share your knowledge at the Annual Meeting and Educational Symposium. Rising Voices gives students the opportunity to deliver a 15-minute educational presentation on a topic relevant to medical imaging or radiation therapy as part of the meeting's continuing education program.

Entry Requirements

- Each presentation must have one student presenter.
- A student may participate in only one Rising Voices Presentation Competition entry.
- Students must submit the following through the designated online submission form by February 1 to allow sufficient time for continuing education approval:
 - Presentation title
 - Abstract
 - Learning objectives
 - Presentation outline

- The final presentation file (.ppt, .pptx) must be submitted by April 1 to allow sufficient time for presentations to be loaded onto the meeting computers.
- The student must present in person at the Annual Meeting and Educational Symposium to be eligible for judging.
- Participants must register for the Annual Meeting and Educational Symposium to participate in the Rising Voices Presentation Competition.
- TSRT reserves the right to limit the competition to 10 presentations based on the Annual Meeting schedule. If more than 10 eligible entries are received, presentations will be accepted in the order completed entries are received.

Presentation Requirements

- The presentation topic must be relevant to medical imaging or radiation therapy.
- The presentation must be the student's own work and must not have been previously presented at a TSRT or ASRT meeting or event.
- The presentation must be delivered using Microsoft PowerPoint (.ppt, .pptx).
- The presentation must be consistent with the title, abstract, learning objectives, and outline submitted for continuing education approval.
- References and citations must follow the current edition of either APA or AMA style.
- Any use of generative AI must be disclosed as required by the general Student Competition Rules.
- Presentations must include at least 15 minutes of educational content to meet continuing education requirements. Students should plan to speak for a minimum of 15 minutes. Presentations may extend slightly beyond 15 minutes when necessary to conclude the educational content. If a presentation concludes before 15 minutes, the presenter will be asked questions related to the presentation topic to complete the required educational time.

Judging

- Presentations will be evaluated using the Rising Voices Presentation Competition Scoring Rubric (see [Appendix C](#)).
- Judges' scores will be averaged to determine first, second, and third place.
- Ties will be resolved using the designated tiebreaking criteria on the scoring rubric.

Awards

- First Place – \$300
- Second Place – \$250
- Third Place – \$200

Roentgen Challenge (formerly Roentgen Student Bee)

Put your radiologic sciences knowledge to the test in this fast-paced, live competition at the Annual Meeting and Educational Symposium. Students compete individually using Kahoot or a similar interactive quiz platform to answer certification exam-style questions, with both accuracy and response time determining the winners.

Entry Requirements

- Students compete individually.
- Participants must hold a current TSRT membership.
- Participants must be registered for the Annual Meeting and Educational Symposium.
- Advance competition entry is not required. Students may participate by reporting to the designated competition location at the scheduled time.

Competition Rules

- All participants will compete together at the designated time and location during the Annual Meeting and Educational Symposium.
- Participants must remain in the competition room until the competition has concluded. A participant who leaves before the end of the competition may be disqualified.
- Participants will answer multiple-choice, certification exam-style questions related to radiologic sciences.
- Participants must provide and use their own electronic device capable of accessing the selected quiz platform during the competition.
- Questions and answer choices will be presented using the selected quiz platform.
- Participants will have a designated amount of time to answer each question.
- The selected quiz platform will score responses based on accuracy and response time.
- Final standings generated by the selected quiz platform will determine first, second, and third place.

Awards

- First Place – \$150
- Second Place – \$100
- Third Place – \$50

RAD Runway Challenge

Show us your program pride, creativity, and style! Individuals or teams create an original program T-shirt and a short social-media-style video showcasing their program and design. In addition to first, second, and third place awards, Annual Meeting attendees will select their favorite entry to receive the Attendees' Choice Award.

Entry Requirements

- Entries may be submitted individually or by teams of up to five students.
- A student may participate in only one RAD Runway Challenge entry.
- All participating students must be registered for the Annual Meeting and Educational Symposium.
- Entries must be submitted through the designated online submission form by March 1.
- One student should submit the entry on behalf of the team, if applicable.
- For team submission, the Program Director verification letter must include the names of all students participating in the entry.

- Each entry must include the required T-shirt design materials (front and back images of T-shirt) and completed video file. A publicly accessible link to the video may be submitted in place of a video file and must not require a login, password, or access request to view.

T-Shirt Requirements

- The T-shirt design must be an original design created for the student's educational program.
- The design should reflect program pride and promote the medical imaging and radiation therapy profession in a positive and professional manner.
- The design may incorporate the program or institution name, logo, mascot, imaging/therapy-related graphics, or other appropriate creative elements.
- The T-shirt must be featured prominently in the submitted video.
- Any use of generative AI must be disclosed as required by the general Student Competition Rules.

Video Requirements

- Each entry must include a short, social-media-style video (reel), not to exceed 60 seconds, showcasing the T-shirt design and educational program.
- Videos must be submitted in a commonly supported video file format (.mp4, .mov, .avi, .wmv). A link to the video may be submitted in place of a video file. The link must be publicly accessible and must not require a login, password, or access request to view.
- The video should clearly show the T-shirt design and highlight the creativity, personality, and pride of the program.
- Videos may include music, narration, text, transitions, or other creative elements.
- All content must be appropriate for presentation at the Annual Meeting and Educational Symposium.
- Students are responsible for ensuring that all individuals appearing in the video have given permission to be included.
- Copyrighted music, images, video clips, or other media must be used appropriately and in accordance with applicable permissions or licensing requirements.
- Any use of generative AI in creating the video must be disclosed as required by the general Student Competition Rules.

Live Showcase

- Each RAD Runway entry will briefly take the stage during the competition to showcase their T-shirt design, followed by the presentation of their submitted 60-second video.
- All team members who are present may participate in the live showcase.
- The live showcase is intended as a brief introduction to the entry and is not separately scored.

Judging

- Entries will be evaluated using the RAD Runway Challenge Scoring Rubric (see [Appendix D](#)).
- Judges will evaluate both the T-shirt design and the submitted video.
- Judges' scores will be averaged to determine first, second, and third place.
- Ties will be resolved using the designated tiebreaking criteria on the scoring rubric.

- The Attendees' Choice Award is separate from the judged competition and will not affect first, second, or third place scoring.

Attendees' Choice Award

Annual Meeting attendees will have the opportunity to select their favorite overall RAD Runway entry, considering both the T-shirt and video. The method used to determine the Attendees' Choice Award will be selected by the TSRT Board of Directors and announced at the Annual Meeting and Educational Symposium. The entry receiving the highest level of attendee support will receive the Attendees' Choice Award.

Awards

- First place – \$150
- Second place – \$100
- Third place – \$50
- Attendees' Choice Award – \$50

Appendix A: Emerging Scholars Paper Competition Scoring Rubric

Criterion	Judges Evaluate	Points
Content and Knowledge	Accuracy, depth, and focus of content; demonstrated understanding of the topic; appropriate development of key concepts.	____/30
Scholarship and Evidence	Quality, relevance, and credibility of sources; evidence of scholarly inquiry; effective integration of evidence to support statements, findings, and conclusions.	____/25
Organization and Development	Logical progression of ideas; effective development of the Introduction, Method, Results, Discussion, and Conclusion; coherence among sections; conclusions supported by the information presented.	____/20
Relevance and Contribution	Significance to medical imaging or radiation therapy; educational, professional, clinical, or patient-care value; meaningful implications for practice, education, or profession.	____/15
Writing and Scholarly Presentation	Clarity and professionalism of writing; grammar, spelling, sentence structure, and readability; appropriate and consistent use of APA or AMA style; overall scholarly presentation.	____/10
TOTAL		____/100

Scoring: Judges assign a score for each criterion up to the maximum points indicated. Scores to one decimal place are encouraged to differentiate closely matched entries.

Tiebreakers: Ties in final averaged scores will be resolved using the higher Scholarship and Evidence score, followed by Content and Knowledge, then Relevance and Contribution.

Appendix B: Discovery Poster Competition Scoring Rubric

Criterion	Judges Evaluate	Points
Content and Accuracy	Accuracy, depth, and focus of content; demonstrated understanding of the topic; appropriate development of key concepts.	____/25
Scholarship and Evidence	Quality, relevance, and credibility of sources; effective use of evidence to support information presented; appropriate and consistent use of APA or AMA style for in-text citations, references, images, figures, and other sourced material.	____/20
Organization and Clarity	Logical organization and flow of information; clear presentation of key ideas; appropriate balance of information; ability of the viewer to easily follow and understand the poster.	____/20
Visual Communication and Design	Effective use of layout, typography, images, graphics, and visual elements to communicate information; readability; visual appeal; creativity; overall effectiveness of the poster as a visual presentation.	____/20
Relevance and Educational Value	Significance to medical imaging or radiation therapy; educational, professional, clinical, or patient-care value; usefulness of the information to students or professionals in the field.	____/15
TOTAL		____/100

Scoring: Judges assign a score for each criterion up to the maximum points indicated. Scores to one decimal place are encouraged to differentiate closely matched entries.

Tiebreakers: Ties in final averaged scores will be resolved using the higher Content and Accuracy score, followed by Visual Communication and Design, then Scholarship and Evidence.

Appendix C: Rising Voices Presentation Competition Scoring Rubric

Criterion	Judges Evaluate	Points
Content and Knowledge	Accuracy, depth, and focus of content; demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the topic; appropriate level of complexity and development of key concepts.	____/25
Scholarship and Evidence	Quality, relevance, and credibility of sources; effective use of evidence to support information presented; appropriate and consistent use of APA or AMA style for citations, references, images, figures, and other sourced material.	____/20
Organization and Educational Value	Logical organization and flow of information; alignment with the stated learning objectives; clear educational takeaways; relevance and value to medical imaging or radiation therapy students and professionals.	____/20
Presentation and Delivery	Confidence, clarity, and professionalism of delivery; effective communication and audience engagement; appropriate pacing; sufficient development of educational content to meet the required 15-minute presentation period.	____/25
Visual Aids and Professionalism	Quality, readability, and effectiveness of PowerPoint slides; appropriate use of text, images, graphics, and other visual elements; spelling, grammar, and overall professional presentation.	____/10
TOTAL		____/100

Scoring: Judges assign a score for each criterion up to the maximum points indicated. Scores to one decimal place are encouraged to differentiate closely matched entries.

Tiebreakers: Ties in final averaged scores will be resolved using the higher Presentation and Delivery score, followed by Content and Knowledge, then Organization and Educational Value.

Appendix D: RAD Runway Challenge Scoring Rubric

Criterion	Judges Evaluate	Points
T-Shirt Design and Creativity	Originality and creativity of the T-shirt design; visual appeal; effective use of graphics, text, color, and other design elements; overall impact of the design.	____/30
Program and Professional Identity	Effectiveness of the T-shirt in representing the educational program; demonstration of program pride; positive and appropriate representation of medical imaging or radiation therapy.	____/20
Video Creativity and Engagement	Creativity and originality of the video; ability to capture and maintain viewer interest; effective use of the social-media-style format; overall energy and engagement.	____/25
Showcasing of T-Shirt	Effectiveness of the video in featuring the T-shirt and communicating its design; visibility of key design elements; integration of the T-shirt into the overall video concept.	____/15
Overall Quality and Professionalism	Overall quality and cohesiveness of the entry; appropriate and professional content; technical quality and effectiveness of the finished video.	____/10
TOTAL		____/100

Scoring: Judges assign a score for each criterion up to the maximum points indicated. Scores to one decimal place are encouraged to differentiate closely matched entries.

Tiebreakers: Ties in final averaged scores will be resolved using the higher T-Shirt Design and Creativity score, followed by Video Creativity and Engagement, then Program and Professional Identity.