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# Call for Proposals for Papers and Training Sessions

## 2011 Annual Meeting: Innovations in Assessment

April 7-11, 2011  
New Orleans, Louisiana

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Co-Chairs, Annual Meeting Program Committee

Cara Cahalan Laitusis and Sandip Sinharay, Educational Testing Service ([NCME2011@ETS.org](mailto:NCME2011@ETS.org))

Chair, Training and Professional Development Committee

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Proposals may be submitted from  
**July 1, 2010 to August 1, 2010**

Submit all proposals at:

**[www.NCME.org](http://www.NCME.org)**

Proposals must contain all the information  
specified in this Call for Proposals.

Notification of acceptance/rejection decisions:  
**November 30, 2010**

Date papers due to moderators and discussants:  
**March 4, 2011**

### INTRODUCTION

The 2011 NCME Annual Meeting offers a unique forum to exchange your ideas, results, and concerns with other members of the organization. The theme for the 2011 meeting will be Innovations in Assessment. The submission of a proposal constitutes the first step in taking advantage of such an opportunity. However, submitting a proposal involves a commitment to complete the promised work in a timely manner and to attend the Annual Meeting. **Please do not submit proposals for papers or other sessions unless you fully expect to attend the Meeting if your proposal is accepted.** Should you be unable to attend the Meeting, it is your responsibility to ensure that someone else can assume your role in a session. Furthermore, **it is critically important that papers be sent to discussants at least 4 weeks before the Meeting so that they will have time to review your work and prepare appropriate comments.**

The Annual Meeting Program will consist primarily of paper presentations and training sessions. This Call for

Proposals provides instructions for submitting proposals for sessions at the 2011 Annual Meeting. When submitting proposals, please keep the following guidelines in mind:

- All presentations must be related to some aspect of measurement in education.
- Topics of proposals should not have been published previously or presented previously at another scientific meeting.
- Proposals describing work in progress will be considered if the activities still to be completed are clearly indicated in the proposal and if the work will be completed prior to the Meeting.
- The presentations should have clear relevance for practitioners.

The Program Chairs would like your ideas and proposals for other types of sessions not explicitly listed in the Call. They also welcome suggestions for invited speakers and symposium topics. Moreover, members who are willing to serve as proposal reviewers, session moderators, and/or

discussants should register via the annual meeting website using the address given above.

## PROCEDURES FOR PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

All members of NCME are invited to submit paper, coordinated session, and training session proposals. A nonmember may submit a proposal if sponsored by an NCME member. **Only proposals submitted online through the NCME web site (<http://www.ncme.org>) will be accepted.**

### *Participation Rules*

The following rules have been established to ensure the widest possible range of participation by NCME members. In addition, they are needed to minimize schedule conflicts that arise when sessions are arranged in the final program schedule. NCME will be enforcing these rules for its forthcoming annual meeting. When multiple submissions involving an individual lead to violation of these rules, program co-chairs are authorized to resolve conflicts in ways that best benefit the overall program. Furthermore, it is important to remember that conflicts between NCME and AERA program scheduling cannot always be resolved.

- A member may not be a presenter in more than one paper session.
- A member may not be a presenter in more than one coordinated session, but may participate as a discussant in one other coordinated session.
- A member may chair or organize one event in addition to those listed previously.
- In all, no person may have an active role in more than four sessions.

### *Evaluation Criteria*

Each proposal will be evaluated by at least two persons according to a blind-review process. The following criteria will guide the evaluations.

- The scientific merit of the topic of the proposed session;
- The extent to which the material is not redundant with previous publications and presentations;
- Whether the topic can be presented in the time allotted;
- The relevance to practitioners in the field;
- The clarity and completeness of expression of the proposal.

### *Topic Descriptors*

Please use this list of topic descriptors to select the one that best characterizes your paper, coordinated session, or training session. Papers, coordinated sessions, and training sessions that focus on the theme of this year's

conference (Innovations in Assessment) are highly encouraged and may be grouped into sessions that focus on innovation.

1. Innovations in Item or Test Design
2. Innovations in Measurement
3. Innovations in Test Delivery and Scoring
4. Computer-based testing
5. Growth modeling
6. Item response theory (IRT) (including model fit/dimensionality issues)
7. Large-scale assessment
8. Licensure and certification testing
9. Linking and equating
10. Multidimensional measurement models (including factor analysis, MIRT, and diagnostic models)
11. Performance assessment or alternate assessment
12. Policy, legal and Ethical Issues
13. Reliability/generalizability theory
14. Standard setting
15. Test security
16. Test use with special populations
17. Test validity and fairness (including DIF)
18. Test/item development
19. Test/item scoring and score reporting
20. Other issues (describe)

In addition to the main topic selection, please provide three keywords that relate to the topic of the paper or coordinated session. Instructions for preparing each type of proposal follow.

NCME will provide an LCD (data) projector, screen, and microphone for each session. NCME will arrange for other equipment for a session (e.g., VCR, slide projector, computer, overhead projector) at the expense of the presenter(s).

## (1) PAPER PROPOSALS

### *General Information*

Paper sessions generally include four presentations of 10–15 minutes each on related topics with one or two discussants. Questions and comments from the audience follow the formal presentations. This format applies to proposals for individual papers. Related papers that are submitted together should follow the instructions for Coordinated Session Proposals.

### *Procedures for Online Submission*

1. Complete the required information fields on the paper proposal submission form on the NCME web site. Be sure to complete the separate listing of all authors' names and affiliations **clearly specifying**

**the presenting author. All authors' names and affiliations should be typed as you would like them to appear in the Program.**

2. Type or electronically insert the title into the appropriate text box.
3. Prepare a submission document with the title and summary (1,200 to 1,500 words) of your paper. Do not include information about authorship or institutional affiliation(s) in the summary. In general, the summary should include the following sections: (a) objectives of the inquiry; (b) source(s) of the information presented in the paper (including sample, instruments, etc.); (c) methods and/or techniques; (d) results and/or conclusions; and (e) educational importance of the study.
4. Upload the submission document following the submission instructions.
5. Submit the proposal by **August 1, 2010**.

**The presenting author will receive an e-mail acknowledging receipt of the submission.**

Remember, the program committee may choose to remove a paper from consideration if the presenting author has already had a paper accepted (see *Participation Rules* above).

## **(2) COORDINATED SESSION PROPOSALS**

### *General Information*

Coordinated Sessions are any of a number of different types of sessions where a proposal for a completely organized session is submitted as a unit, including all presenters, a moderator, and discussants. Coordinated Sessions provide an opportunity to present specific challenges or topics from a variety of perspectives or to present complex topics that require a number of papers to describe the full scope of the issue. Coordinated Sessions are usually 1½ hours in length, but special requests can be made for a limited number of 2-hour sessions. Coordinated Sessions may include (a) symposia, (b) related papers, or (c) other innovative formats that provide extensive information about challenging issues. The following are brief descriptions of these session types.

- **Symposia.** A series of papers that present alternative views, solutions, or interpretations for a topic or issue of broad scope and major importance. Symposium proposals should make clear the alternative viewpoints that will be presented in the session. At least one independent discussant should be included.
- **Related Papers.** A session with related papers provides a more extended analysis or discussion of

a topic than can be provided in a single paper presentation. Related papers should either build on one another or cover different aspects of a single topic or issue.

The organizer of a Coordinated Session should select a topic or issue of broad scope and major importance that merits an extended presentation. The proposal for this type of session should indicate how the interaction between the presenters will be structured. The differences in the separate presentations should be emphasized. Coordinated Sessions are not to be used for collections of papers that happen to be on the same general topic. There must be a common theme and an organized structure for the session.

The organizer should identify the topic, obtain commitments from a moderator, speakers, and independent discussants, and plan with them the issues to be explored and the manner for exploring them. The Program Chair may suggest an additional presenter or discussant. An organizer may also act as a participant or moderator. Organizers of accepted proposals will be expected to notify the moderator, speakers, and discussants promptly and should coordinate the presentations well in advance of the Meeting.

### *Procedures for Online Submission*

1. Complete the required information fields on the coordinated proposal submission form on the NCME web site. Be sure to complete the separate listing of all participants' names, affiliations, and mailing addresses **clearly specifying the session organizer. All names and affiliations should be typed as you would like them to appear in the Program.**
2. Prepare a submission document with a 500-word summary of the topic and organizational structure of the session. The summary should make clear the distinctions between the positions taken by each presenter. In addition, prepare 150-word summaries of each participant's paper in this submission document. **No names or institutional affiliations should appear on any of these summaries.**
3. Upload the submission document following the submission instructions.
4. Submit the proposal by **August 1, 2010**.

**The session organizer will receive an e-mail acknowledging receipt of the submission.**

### (3) TRAINING SESSION PROPOSALS

#### *General Information*

NCME invites proposals for training sessions on topics of interest to members and nonmembers. These sessions may be scheduled to occur before or after the Annual Meeting, depending on their length. Training sessions that focus on the theme of this year's conference (Innovations in Assessment) are highly encouraged. Note also that training sessions may be webcasted. A training session that is proposed should meet the following criteria: (a) the topic(s) covered pertains to measurement theory or practice in educational settings, (b) the length of the training session is between 3 hours and 1 full day, and (c) the costs associated with the session are covered by participant fees or other funding. NCME will publicize the training sessions in *Educational Measurement: Issues and Practices* and/or in a mailing to members. Questions regarding the training session proposals should be directed via e-mail to Amy Hendrickson ([ahendrickson@collegeboard.org](mailto:ahendrickson@collegeboard.org)).

#### *Procedures for Online Submission*

1. Complete the required information fields on the training session proposal submission form on the NCME web site. Be sure to complete the separate listing of all participants' names, affiliations, and mailing addresses. **All names and affiliations should be typed as you would like them to appear in the Program.**
2. Prepare a proposal submission document for uploading to the NCME submission website. The proposal document should include the following:
  - a) Abstract of the training session;
    - i) 175 word maximum (used for both proposal review and publication purposes);
    - ii) include equipment/materials participants must bring with them (e.g., laptop);
  - b) Intended audience of the session;
  - c) Objectives of the training session;
  - d) Method and content of instruction;
  - e) Organization and length of the training session;
  - f) Materials to be given to participants;
  - g) Detailed budget;
  - h) Specification of maximum enrollment (training session enrollments will be capped at 30 participants unless otherwise specified);
  - i) Special equipment or facilities required; and
  - j) Qualifications of the organizer and presenter(s).
3. Upload the proposal submission document following the submission instructions on the website. **Only submissions with all of the required information above will be considered.**
4. Submit the proposal by **August 1, 2010**. **The organizer of the training session will receive an e-mail acknowledging receipt of the submission.**