



CONFERENCE ON HIGHER EDUCATION VALUES, IDENTITY, BELONGING, AND PURPOSE

2025 THEME: Building the Interdisciplinary Frame: Education, Social Sciences, and the Synthesis of Values, Identity, Belonging, and Purpose

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The steering committee of the Conference on Higher Education Values, Identity, Belonging, and Purpose is proud to announce the call for proposals.

We are seeking proposals for our 3rd Annual Conference, taking place virtually Feb. 5-7, 2025.

This year's conference theme is **Building the Interdisciplinary Frame: Education, Social Sciences, and the Synthesis of Values, Identity, Belonging, and Purpose.**

Interdisciplinary work and research have been a cornerstone of academic practice for over a century, in many cases predating formal disciplinary structure and curricula. Yet, questions continue to emerge about the prominence, effectiveness, and practicality of interdisciplinary work in academic and professional settings, as well as its impact on those engaging in this work.

Recently, various solitary disciplines in higher education have made substantive cuts to faculty, staff, or program majors and course offerings. Many of these diminishing programs or majors are a part of or directly connected to work in education and the social sciences, often in the humanities or other social science fields. Conversely, many emergent disciplines are becoming increasingly popular, often in business, technology, or medical fields. All these disciplines, in conversation with education fields, offer substantial and impactful knowledge for practitioners and scholars alike.

However, in considering values, identity, belonging, and purpose, research on the relationship between these fields and their connections with such outcomes is scant. The exploration and understanding of past, present, and future interdisciplinary efforts and work can serve to establish and strengthen these needed connections.

Examples:

- Intersections of postsecondary disciplinary programming and professional industry trends
- Common values as shared interdisciplinary work
- Theoretical/conceptual framework application across disciplines, fields, and/or industries
- Identity and belonging-based impacts and needs of students, educators, and researchers among varied disciplines

The Call:

We are seeking innovative research, practitioner, and theory-based proposals that address interdisciplinary framing of education and social science work as it intersects with values, identity, belonging, and purpose.

We encourage individuals to explore various aspects related to the theme, including but not limited to:

- Definitions and interpretations of interdisciplinarity and interdisciplinary work and engagement
- Justifications for interdisciplinary approaches as they related to values, identity, belonging, and purpose
- Barriers to interdisciplinary practice by field and within higher education, professional, and policy spaces
- Intersections of interdisciplinarity with values, identity, belonging, and purpose and their related outcomes for college and university students, staff, and faculty.

Proposals are encouraged to interrogate and/or center fresh perspectives on interdisciplinary frameworks and their impact on students, educators, researchers, and administrators.

We encourage submissions that challenge assumptions about and provide nuanced insights into the realities of cross-disciplinary collaboration in academic and professional practice.

We invite those who have contributed to the field to consider submitting proposals around the concepts of values, identity, belonging, and purpose as they connect to the interdisciplinary frame.

To submit a proposal, please click the [Conference Program Submission Link](#).

More information about the proposals can be found below in the Program Proposal Guidelines.

As a conference, we strive to be inclusive of all; therefore, we have made a commitment to remain virtual/online in our modality.

Important Dates for the Conference and Submissions

Sept. 11, 2024	Call for Programs & Papers Open
Sept. 30, 2024	Conference Registration Opens
Oct. 18, 2024	Program & Paper Proposal Deadline
Nov. 18, 2024	Program Status Notification (by email)
Feb. 5-7, 2025	Virtual Conference

Program Proposal Guidelines

- [All proposals and papers are due by October 18, 2024 at 11:59 pm EST](#)
- Programs and papers should relate to the conference theme and/or to broader themes related to sense of belonging, identity, purpose in college students, student outcomes, campus environments, etc.
- Program sessions will be 60-75 minutes in length, inclusive of Q&A time.
- Completed submissions will be confirmed via email.
- Program proposals will be evaluated via a blind peer-review process by an independent panel of reviewers.
- Accepted program presenters are required to register for the 2025 Conference on Higher Education Values, Identity, Belonging, and Purpose.
- If you have any questions about the program proposal submission process, please contact us at j.cody.nielsen@convergencestrategies.org.
- Conference registration will open on Sept. 30, 2024.

Types of Conference Proposals

Choose from one of these program session formats below.

General Interest Session: General interest sessions are traditional program sessions (e.g. workshops) that are 60 minutes, inclusive of Q & A. These proposals should include information about how the presenter(s) plan to include substantive participant interaction during their session.

Scholarly Paper Sessions: These sessions give presenters the opportunity to share innovative research findings and conceptual arguments in the form of scholarly papers. Presenters can share their research findings and facilitate discussions around their research. Scholarly papers include, but are not limited to dissertation theses, published and peer-reviewed articles. In these sessions, papers will be grouped by topic and each session will include 2-3 papers.

Roundtable Discussion: Roundtable discussions are facilitated by the presenter(s) and designed to promote open dialogue around a significant issue/theme. Rather than making a formal presentation, session facilitators will encourage and maintain substantive dialogue. These sessions may include discussion around current issues, works in progress, or around developing practical solutions to pressing issues on a campus or related to enhancing a certain population's success (for example). Roundtable discussions will be 45 minutes.

Conference Proposal Evaluation

Relevance to conference theme <i>or</i> to the sense of belonging, identity, and purpose more broadly.	Proposal draws a clear connection to the current conference theme and/ <i>or</i> proposal draws a clear connection to historical or contemporary themes including, but not limited to character and identity development, values, ethics, spiritual development, service learning, or related topics.
Presentation is grounded in relevant research, assessment, and/ <i>or</i> practice.	Presenter(s) have appropriate knowledge of and experience with the subject matter and have done due diligence in researching, planning, and assessing the topic or program being discussed.
Practical application to the field	Proposal establishes learning outcomes and measures to assess those outcomes. Proposal demonstrates participants will gain useful information and/ <i>or</i> practical takeaways from presentation attendance.
Proposal organization and clarity	Proposal adheres to program submission guidelines. Presentation title and abstract effectively convey proposal content and draw participant interest. Proposal shares the logical flow of the presentation. Proposal has minimal spelling and grammatical errors. The presenter bio(s) communicate the particular experience and/ <i>or</i> expertise of the presenter(s).
Overall proposal rating	Reviewers will provide an overall rating for each program proposal in addition to each individual sub-category