



2026 NASPAA Regional Conference; Santiago, Chile

Proposal Submission Guidelines

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Submission Details

While you may submit a paper instead of a panel, panels consist of a convener, 3-4 confirmed speakers, and a well-developed topic related to the conference tracks. Proposals should align with the conference theme, demonstrate originality, and include diverse perspectives. Sessions will last 75 minutes, with up to 45 minutes for presentations and 30 minutes for audience engagement. Formats may include conventional panel presentations, roundtables, or workshops.

- **Panel:** A structured session centered on a research or teaching topic. Panels may include the presentation of a paper and typically feature multiple speakers contributing prepared remarks, followed by moderated discussion and audience engagement.
- **Roundtable:** An interactive session focused on a research or teaching topic, or a specific concept or idea. Roundtables are designed to foster open dialogue, encourage exchange of perspectives, and actively engage participants in discussion.
- **Workshop:** A hands-on, participatory session aimed at engaging attendees in a particular topic, concept, or set of skills. Workshops emphasize practical learning, the application of new ideas, and the development of specific competencies.

Proposals with representation from multiple institutions and varied viewpoints are preferred. Before proposing a panel, you are encouraged to contact peers at other institutions and examine carefully how these ideas are being developed in the classroom, in program administration, in community relations, and in research.

While the basis for your panel proposal may be a published paper, your proposal should examine the implications of your research and include a discussion of opposing viewpoints. Conference panel proposals should not be manuscript abstracts. Proposals should present an idea and describe how all sides of the idea will be discussed. Proposals that present variety across types, sizes, foci, or geographic location of programs will receive preference. Proposals should include presenters from **at least 2 different institutions**. Please note, in order to accept as many presenters as possible,

the conference planning committee may ask you to be flexible in your presenters, or they may suggest substitute presenters.

Submitting “an orphan proposal” without a full slate of presenters is discouraged. The committee will try to match an individual to a panel, but most often accepted panels are already full or there is no topical match.

Panel proposals require clear and concise titles, succinct and persuasive descriptions, ideally links to at least one conference track and/or the overall conference theme, and well-thought-out learning objectives.

Panel Logistics

- Panels are 75 minutes in length, with up to 45 minutes for presentations and 30 minutes for audience engagement
- Each panel should consist of a convener, up to four presenters, and up to one respondent (optional).
- The panel convener will manage the panel development process, and then at the conference session, the convener will open the panel by framing the discussion and moderating the Q&A period.
- If the convener would like to make a presentation, he/she should only invite three additional presenters.
- It is essential for the panel convener to manage presentations to ensure ample time for discussion at the end of the presentations.
- If a respondent is added to the panel, he/she will not make a presentation but will instead offer summary comments on the panelists' presentations. The respondent's comments should be within 75 minutes to allow at least 30 minutes for questions from the audience.
- All presentation rooms will be set up in theater style with PowerPoint presentation technology. A limited number of rooms will be available with audio capability; please indicate in your proposal if you will need audio technology (i.e., showing a video clip).
- Panelists should consider alternatives to the usual presentation/response format, including moderated roundtables and other forms of presentation that encourage lively discussion and debate.

Proposal Selection

Please understand that selecting panels is a difficult and highly selective process. As such, quality rather than quantity is always best when submitting proposals. We much prefer to receive your best ideas rather than every idea you might have. Preference will be given to panels that address the theme of Emerging Leaders, Enduring Values: Educating for Public Service in Times of Uncertainty and which:

- Address at least one of the conference tracks;
- Include panel participants which represent the diversity of NASPAA institutions;
- Will allow for discussion and analysis of current topics;
- Have representation from at least two schools, and ideally, from two or more countries;
- Involve practitioners, students, or other stakeholders;
- Include a full slate of presenters;
- Report on experiences with collaborative work across programs, stakeholders, and/or countries;
- Are nonpartisan and examine multiple viewpoints of an issue;
- Encompass an appropriate volume of information to present in one hour, which will facilitate a thoughtful and meaningful discussion;
- Represent interests of and/or have the explicit endorsement of a NASPAA committee or section; and
- Reflect originality and relevance.

The conference selection committee will review all submissions and NASPAA will notify the convener of the final status on April 17, 2026.

Tracks

Track 1. Leadership Development

Focused on supporting rising and current program leaders across diverse regional institutional contexts.

Topics include:

- Succession planning and onboarding for new MPA/MPP directors
- Research and publication opportunities for doctoral students and early-career faculty
- Leadership tools for conflict management
- Responding to internal and external stakeholders

Track 2. Institutional Resilience & Innovation

Centered on sustainability, adaptation, and innovation in public service programs, especially in complex or resource-constrained settings.

Topics include:

- Supporting programs facing enrollment, staffing, or funding challenges
- Shared course models and hybrid/online teaching collaborations across countries
- Innovative approaches to building, participating, and sustaining academic networks across countries
- Mentoring faculty to meet academic demands for promotion in resource-constrained settings

Track 3. Equity, Empathy, and Institutional Culture

Embodying the human-centered values that characterize public service traditions across Latin America and the region.

Topics include:

- Educating for equity and institutional transformation in contexts of inequality and democratic strain
- Empathy as a core leadership competency in applied public service education
- Institutional cultures of care, inclusion, and well-being in public service schools
- Re-centering latin american perspectives in public administration education and public values
- Equity-centered leadership pathways: gender, diversity, and representation across sectors

Track 4. Strategic Communication & Public Engagement

Emphasizing communication as a vital tool for strengthening connection, legitimacy, and public service education across diverse communities.

Topics include:

- Storytelling and narrative approaches that honor the diverse voices, histories, and identities across Latin America and the broader region
- Digital outreach strategies that reflect community priorities and demonstrate meaningful impact
- Building trust and transparency through culturally grounded and relationship-centered engagement practices