The Spectra Submission Requirements
2017 Edition
Deadline: Friday, May 20th at 11:59 pm

The Spectra's mission statement
The Spectra: The Virginia Engineering and Science Research Journal is committed to the development of research excellence at the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences at the University of Virginia. It publishes prominent undergraduate research with a threefold purpose: to provide publication opportunities for undergraduates catering to the engineering sciences, to promote a community of research, and to serve as an educational tool for prospective students. It aims to publish faculty-evaluated and peer-reviewed papers reflecting a wide range of topics containing the core values of technical credibility, relevancy, and originality.

What The Spectra is looking for
We are now searching for U.Va. undergraduates to submit their research for publication in Spring 2017. Successful papers will portray a variety of criteria such as originality, depth of technical analysis, diversity, intellectual insight, and transformative research. Paper submissions are open to any discipline provided a faculty member approves the document based on technical accuracy. Submissions can come from fourth-year theses, capstone projects, independent studies, STS research, summer research, etc. We are now accepting applications through May 20th at 11:59 pm. Final paper submissions are to be submitted by email to spectra_submissions@virginia.edu. Please email spectra@email.virginia.edu with any questions or for further information.

Submission Instructions
Submit all materials to spectra_submissions@virginia.edu by Friday, May 20th at 11:59 pm for publication in the Spring 2017 edition of the journal.

Please submit digital versions of:

- Your Paper (See Submission Requirements)
- The Student Author Information* (See Appendix A)
- Publication Agreement* (See Appendix B)
- The Faculty Endorsement* (See Appendix C)

For materials requiring signatures, either (1) print out the document to be signed and scanned or (2) Give your faculty evaluator an electronic copy of the form to be filled out and emailed to spectra_submissions@virginia.edu. If the faculty member fills out the form electronically, it must be emailed from the faculty member. A typed name on the Student Author Information & Publication Agreement while leaving the signature blank will be considered a signature of agreement. If your paper is selected for publication, you will need to formally sign these documents.
Paper Selection
Papers will be anonymously reviewed by undergraduate peers, and evaluated based on the following criteria for a good paper:
  • Reports original research by undergraduate students
  • Reaches a conclusion of interest to an interdisciplinary readership
  • Is understandable to an educated non-expert without sacrificing the research's integrity
  • Displays good grammar, syntax, structure and flow
  • Uses figures, diagrams, etc. to reflect findings

Paper Submission Requirements
Formatting
  • Between 7 and 20 pages (not including bibliography, social impact, acknowledgements)
  • 12pt. Times New Roman
  • Single-spaced
  • 1 inch margins

Abstract: 250 words
  • Contains a short exploration of the major sections of your paper (intro, methods, etc.)
  • Reports the conclusions
  • Should stand alone—if someone reads your abstract they should know what you did, generally how you did it, and what you found

Social Impact Statement: 100 words
  • Summarize basic conclusions and overarching themes of the research
  • Included after abstract
  • Tell readers why they should care, and/or how this is going to affect their lives

Acknowledgement Section: 50 words
  • Optional
  • Important if the research was conducted outside U.Va.

Tables, Graphs and Graphics
  • Text in figures should be readable when reduced to half-page width.
  • All graphics, tables and graphs should have a caption of their description and source, and be referenced in the text of the paper at the end of the sentence as follows (fig. 1)
    o Captions should be Times New Roman, 10pt., single spaced

Citations
  • APA format, in accordance with UVA STS department policy
  • In-text citations are required in the following basic form (author, year). Please refer to APA guidelines.
    o If your paper uses a different citation format, you may still submit your paper for consideration and change the format after acceptance. If you decide to do this, we ask for your full and timely cooperation in changing the citations to reflect our requirements.
Additional Notes
Upon paper acceptance, we will request the following materials. Publication of your paper is contingent on your timely completion of these additions, as well as your cooperation in our revision process.

High-resolution files of all figures
This helps our layout editors when they are formatting the journal and need to adjust figure dimensions or positions.

Biography
A 150-word biography is included with each paper that is published to give the readers some insight into your background. You will be asked to include your:
- Full Name
- Year
- Major
- Hometown
- Where the research was conducted and why
- Any other activities or interests
Appendix A: Student Author Information
Application for Publication Spring 2017

Author Name(s): ________________________________

Graduation year(s): ______

E-mail: ________________________________

Major: ________________________________

Title of paper: ________________________________

______________________________________________

Faculty Evaluator: ________________________________

"On my honor, I put forth that the submitted paper is an original work, and I take full responsibility for its reception. I also understand that The Spectra has non-exclusive publishing rights for this paper."

Author’s Signature: ________________________________

Date: ________________
Appendix B: Publication Agreement
Application for Publication Spring 2017

1. The author(s) irrevocably grant(s) to The Spectra a non-exclusive license to publish a work as titled ________________________

2. The author(s) affirms that he/she/they is/are the sole author(s) of the work and that it contains no material subject to copyright claims by persons other than the author(s). The author(s) further agrees to indemnify The Spectra against any losses attributable to infringement of copyright.

3. The author(s) affirm(s) that the work has not been previously published.

4. In consultation with the author(s), The Spectra staff shall make editorial changes and corrections needed in order to bring the work into conformity with its style specifications.

Author’s Signature_________________________ Date _____

Editor’s Signature¹_________________________ Date _____

¹ Leave this blank. The Spectra’s editor-in-chief will sign this upon receiving the application.
Appendix C: Faculty Endorsement Form
Application for Publication: Spring 2017

Requirements of Faculty Endorsement:
The endorser need not be the supervisor of the student’s research. The faculty endorsement is intended to ensure that a qualified person in the field of study has read the paper and agrees to its legitimacy. If the research was conducted outside of U.Va., please ensure that the student has permission to submit the research.

The faculty member’s name will not be included in the paper, unless specifically requested; this is a student research journal, edited and run by students. Please contact spectra@email.virginia.edu with any questions or concerns.

Endorser Information:

Endorser Name:____________________

E-mail Address:____________________

Department:______________

Office Number:__________

Name of Author:___________________

Title of Paper:______________________________

Statement of Endorsement:

I, ________________________________, endorse the aforementioned paper, which was submitted for publication in the Spring 2017 edition of The Spectra. I attest that this paper is of publishable quality and value, and that its publication will bring pertinent knowledge to the University’s engineering and scientific community.

Signature_______________________________________ Date________