Canadian Society for the Study of Higher Education

Call for Proposals for the 2027 Annual Conference

University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

In - person program: June 8-10, 2027
Online sessions: June 1, 2027

Conference Theme: “Honoring Histories, Confronting Legacies, Imagining Futures”

Call for proposals deadline: January 5, 2027 at 11:59 PM (Central Time), no extensions

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1. Conference Overview & Theme

The Canadian Society for the Study of Higher Education (CSSHE) invites you to participate in its 2027 annual conference, hosted by the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The conference will bring together researchers, practitioners, administrators, students, activists, policymakers, and others engaged in higher education and related fields.

The 2027 conference will take place in person from June 8 to June 10, 2027, with a virtual day on June 1. The conference welcomes scholarship and practice from across Canada and internationally and provides opportunities to share research, exchange ideas, build relationships, and strengthen the higher education community.

2027 Conference Theme

The 2027 conference theme is “Honouring Histories, Confronting Legacies, Imagining Futures”. The theme is particularly meaningful as the USask College of Education, the conference host, celebrates its centennial in 2027, providing an opportunity to reflect on a century of educational contributions, examine enduring legacies, and envision future directions for education. Proposals may address the theme directly or engage with any substantive issue relevant to higher education and the conference tracks listed below.

We particularly welcome proposals that engage thoughtfully with the changing conditions of higher education, including questions of equity and inclusion, governance, policy, internationalization, geopolitics, technological change, teaching and learning, research, student experience, and the future of higher education at large.

The Conference Committee invites you to review the details of this call and submit your proposal by January 5, 2027 at 11:59 PM (Central Time), no extensions.

2. Session Formats

Proposals are accepted for six session formats.

2.1 Individual Presentation

The submission of a paper proposal on an original piece of research by an author or authors, which will be grouped by the Conference Committee into a session of three presentations based on a common topic or theme. Each presentation is set for 15 minutes and typically involves slides or other visuals to present a summary of the scholarly work. Each presentation is then given five minutes for Q&A, discussion, and feedback. This format is available in both the online segment and the in-person program.

2.2 Self-organized Panel Session

Similar to the Individual Presentation format, except the three presentations are proposed together by a session organizer. This allows the involved authors to coordinate their presentations and highlight commonalities in questions, themes, or problems related to research or practice. The person submitting the proposal will become the session chair. They are expected to follow and implement the time-keeping parameters of 45 minutes of presented material and 15 minutes of audience interaction. This format is available in both the online segment and the in-person program.

2.3 Roundtable

Less formal than the paper presentations described above, a roundtable session allows authors to exchange ideas around topical issues or gather feedback on works in progress. The author or authors of an accepted roundtable presentation are given 15 minutes to discuss their work and ask the audience questions for input. This format is available only in the in-person program.

2.4 Workshop

Workshops, led by facilitators with relevant expertise, allow participants to engage in hands-on learning on a topic relevant to higher education. Each workshop is set for 60 minutes. This format is available only in the in-person program.

2.5 Interactive Poster Presentation

This format builds on the poster presentations component introduced in previous conferences. Inspired by the Two-Minute Thesis, PechaKucha, and Ignite talks, these presentations challenge scholars and practitioners to present their ideas effectively, combining clarity, concision, and persuasion. Presenters are given the constraint of five minutes and five slides; no physical poster is required. Following each presentation, the audience will have time to ask questions or provide feedback. Given the creative constraints, this format accepts only single-author proposals. This format is available only in the in-person program.

2.6 Book Launch

This format showcases books published in 2025 or later on a topic related to higher education. Authors are given time to introduce their book and participate in a panel discussion with the audience on the process and challenges of academic publishing. This format is available only in the in-person program.

3. Conference Tracks

In recognition of higher education's various disciplines and approaches to problem-defining and problem-solving, the tracks for the 2027 conference are listed below. When submitting a proposal, authors should select the track that best reflects the substance of their work.

Assessment & Evaluation — Explores the procedures and techniques related to assessing performance, practices, program outcomes, metrics, and rankings.

Community Colleges & CÉGEPs — Examines the institutional cultures, practices, and procedures of these organizations.

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Decolonization & Indigeneity — Explores problems of higher education through critical lenses of EDID and/or Indigenous Ways of Knowing.

Governance & Administration in Higher Education — Examines higher education organizations in changing environments with respect to administrators, leadership, and governing boards.

Higher Education Policy & Finance — Explores policy development and implementation, as well as financial matters, in higher education.

History & Foundations of Higher Education — Examines the historical development of the field, its subsystems, and individual institutions, and their practices, values, and philosophies.

International & Comparative Higher Education — Compares and contrasts international higher education systems to uncover similarities, differences, and implications.

Research Methodologies — Explores prevailing and emerging paradigms in conducting scholarly research, including the development of theoretical frameworks.

Student Affairs — Examines practices in cultivating student development, access, and success, while addressing challenges in supporting students.

Teaching & Learning — Explores nuances in curriculum design and development, and the experiences of instructors and learners in the classroom.

Technology in Higher Education — Examines emerging issues in the integration of technology, including artificial intelligence and other digital tools, in higher education as learning, research, governance, and administrative tools.

4. Eligibility Requirements

Eligibility requirements reflect CSSHE standards for scholarship and knowledge dissemination. Proposals may be rejected if the requirements are unmet. Accepted proposals may also be removed from the program if the requirements are later found to be unmet.

4.1 Before Submitting a Proposal

1. All paper presentation proposals should be original work, not previously presented at a conference nor published in any outlet (e.g., newspaper, scholarly journal, etc.).
2. Authors can submit a paper presentation proposal to either the in-person program or the online segment; however, the same proposal may not be submitted to both.
3. The online segment will accept paper presentations (Individual Presentation and Self-organized Panel Session).
4. The in-person program will not accept the same proposal submitted to more than one session format and/or conference track.
5. An individual may present up to two formal paper presentations (Individual Presentation and Self-organized Panel Session) throughout the conference, including online and in-person programming; however, they may be listed in the program as a co-author without restriction.
6. An individual may present up to two times in all other session formats (Roundtable, Workshop, Interactive Poster Presentation, and Book Launch).

4.2 After Submitting a Proposal

7. All presenters accepted into the program must register for the conference by the registration deadline communicated by CSSHE.
8. All presenters accepted into the program must have current CSSHE membership at the time of registration and during the conference dates.
9. All presenters agree to be available across the conference dates for which they are proposed, as accepted sessions will be scheduled by the Conference Committee to ensure balanced programming.

5. Submission Process

Submissions for all formats, with the exception of Book Launch proposals, will go through an anonymized peer review process. Proposals should be submitted through the conference management platform identified by CSSHE.

For 2027, the proposal deadline is January 5, 2027 at 11:59 PM (Central Time). Please regard this as a firm deadline to support timely reviews and decisions.

5.1 Fourwaves

Proposal submissions are made via Fourwaves. Fourwaves distinguishes between the submitter, author(s), and presenter(s). The information regarding names, titles, and institutional affiliations entered by the submitting author will be used in the published conference program if a proposal is accepted.

Email addresses submitted through Fourwaves will be used for correspondence regarding proposal submissions and peer review assignments. We suggest including the email addresses of co-authors and co-presenters to ensure up-to-date communication. Fourwaves accepts uploads in Word-compatible or PDF formats.

5.2 Core Requirements

All proposal submitters and conference participants are expected to adhere to CSSHE's Code of Conduct

Please prepare your proposal document in APA Style (7th edition). Proposals for all session formats have the following requirements:

- A selected conference track that best describes the focus of the work;
- A title for the session (up to 15 words, used in the program to identify the session, if accepted);
- An abstract (up to 50 words, used in the program to describe the session, if accepted);
- Word-limited and format-specific content (see Section 5.3); and
- References, tables, charts, graphs, images, and figures placed at the end of the document (no word limit applies).

5.3 Format-specific Requirements

This portion of a proposal is uploaded as a document. To support masked review, no information that could identify the author(s) should appear in this document, including headers, footers, and file name.

5.3.1 Individual Presentation

A description, limited to 500 words, of: (i) the purpose or goals of the research; (ii) its theoretical/conceptual foundation; (iii) its methodology; (iv) its expected, preliminary, or full findings; and (v) its theoretical/practical significance and alignment with the conference theme.

5.3.2 Self-organized Panel Session

A description, limited to 500 words, of the session's objectives in the context of the chosen topic, the research questions, and the relevance to higher education; and a description as per 5.3.1 for each of the required three presentations forming the session (up to 500 words to describe each project).

5.3.3 Roundtable

Within 500 words, describe what is known of: (i) the purpose or goals of the research; (ii) its theoretical/conceptual foundation; (iii) its methodology; (iv) its expected, preliminary, or full findings; (v) its theoretical/practical significance and implications; and (vi) the feedback sought (e.g., clarifying the research problem, refining methods, interpreting findings, discerning significance).

5.3.4 Workshop

A description, limited to 500 words, of: (i) the purpose or goals of the workshop; (ii) its learning objectives; (iii) its delivery plan (activities, tools, worksheets, etc.); (iv) non-identifying information about the subject-matter expertise of the facilitator(s); and (v) any requirements for technology, accessibility, or prerequisite knowledge of participants.

5.3.5 Interactive Poster Presentation

Either: (i) for a research-based talk, the requirements of 5.3.1 (up to 500 words to describe the project); or (ii) for a practice-based talk, a description limited to 500 words of the problem, the implemented solution, the outcome(s), and implications for professional practice.

5.3.6 Book Launch

Within 750 words: (i) a citation of the book in APA format; (ii) a description of the book, including the problem(s) it addresses and the contribution(s) that it makes to higher education; and (iii) optionally, up to three quotes that endorse the book.

6. Review Process

All authors submitting proposals will participate in the peer-review process, subject to the review procedures established by CSSHE. Review assignments, review deadlines, and notification dates will be communicated through the conference submission system.

The review process is anonymized for eligible proposal types and is designed to provide feedback to authors while helping the Conference Committee develop a rigorous and balanced conference program. The Conference Committee may reassign proposals to a different track or session format, where appropriate, to create a balanced program. Authors will be notified if such a change is made.

7. Important Dates

Date	Milestone
January 5, 2027	Call for proposals closes at 11:59 PM (Central Time)
January, 2027	Peer-review period (exact dates to be confirmed)
By mid-February, 2027	Authors notified of proposal decisions
February, 2027	Conference registration opens (anticipated)
April 1, 2027	Early registration deadline (anticipated)
May, 2027	Conference program published
June 1, 2027	Online-only sessions (to be confirmed)

June 8-10, 2027	In-person program at the University of Saskatchewan

Note: Dates marked as anticipated or to be confirmed should be updated by the Conference Committee when the final 2027 CSSHE schedule is approved.

8. Calls to Action

8.1 Submit Your Proposal

We invite you to contribute to the 2027 CSSHE Annual Conference by sharing your research, practice, teaching, policy work, or works in progress. Please consult the CSSHE conference website event.fourwaves.com/csshe2027scees and Fourwaves submission platform for the most current submission instructions and links.

8.2 Help Build an Accessible and Inclusive Conference

The Conference Committee strives to create an accessible and inclusive environment and experience for all participants. Accessibility needs and requests can be identified during conference registration, and participants are encouraged to provide input to the organizing committee.

8.3 Volunteer to Support the Conference

The Conference Committee welcomes volunteers to support activities such as peer review, session support, technical assistance, wayfinding, and other conference activities. Further information will be circulated as planning progresses.

8.4 Contact Us

Questions about the 2027 CSSHE Annual Conference should be directed to the CSSHE conference organizers through the contact information listed on the official CSSHE conference website event.fourwaves.com/csshe2027scees

Any questions about the call for proposals can be directed to Aliya Kuzhabekova at aliya.kuzhabekova@ucalgary.ca