

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What types of papers do AERA Open publish?

A: The majority of articles published in AERA Open will be empirical studies, which draw on quantitative, qualitative or mixed-methods traditions. Occasional exceptions are made for innovative conceptual articles that make very special contributions in illuminating learning processes and outcomes or methodological articles that offer new approaches in the collection or analysis of data. In most cases, we expect conceptual and methodological papers to be largely based on prior empirical research. We also welcome meta-analysis, replication studies, and studies and with precisely-defined null results. We do not publish opinion essays, literature reviews, pilot studies or practical guides.

Also, papers can be either a regular article or a special topic article. AERA Open publishes special topic collections on a range of important interdisciplinary themes related to education. See our special topic collections <<http://journals.sagepub.com/page/ero/collections/special-topic-collections/index>> page to view current calls for papers. Note that many special topics require prior approval of an abstract.

Q: Is the topic of my paper suitable for AERA Open?

A: AERA Open publishes research on educational processes and outcomes, broadly defined. Studies can be conducted in a wide range of academic disciplines, including but not limited to psychology, economics, neuroscience, anthropology, and sociology. Interdisciplinary work is encouraged as well. Submissions can focus on education and learning in any context (e.g., early childhood, after-school, post-secondary.)

All submissions undergo an initial internal review by the editors before being sent out for external peer review, so if there are problems with the suitability of your manuscript, you will be notified quickly, usually within 2 weeks.

Q: Do you publish international articles?

Submissions may be based on the work on any country, or across countries. Authors are encouraged to contextualize international studies for AERA's readership.

Q: Is there a manuscript word length limit?

A: Manuscripts should not exceed 8,000 words in length, excluding tables, appendices, figures, notes, and references. The editors encourage authors of empirical articles to submit main manuscripts that are under 5,000 words and focus on summaries of relevant research literature, procedures, and results, and then include supplemental material to provide further details of data, measures, and robustness-checking. There is no limit to the length of appendices and supplemental material.

Q: What is the average time to decision on a manuscript?

A: The average time from submission of a manuscript to decision is 60 days for new manuscripts that are sent out for review and 30 days for revisions.

Q: Do you accept proposals for special topics?

A: Scholars with proposals or ideas for new special topics should contact the editors.