

Thesis and Dissertation Proposal Guidelines

In accordance with program requirements and procedures, all students should prepare a thesis/dissertation proposal, normally in consultation with their supervisor.

At a minimum, the proposal should contain a brief statement in non-technical language on the purpose of the thesis/dissertation research, its relationship to existing work in the area, and the contribution which the researcher hopes to make to the advancement of knowledge in the field. In addition, the proposal includes a title, the name of the supervisor and the supervisory committee. The title should indicate as clearly as possible the area of research, but it is understood that this title may change. The recommended maximum length of a proposal is 3,500 words.

Approval Process

Following approval of the proposal by the supervisory committee, students must submit one copy of the proposal to the graduate program director. After confirming that the relevant Faculty and internal program requirements have been satisfied, the program director is responsible for submitting the proposals to the Office of the Dean, Graduate Studies.

Approval Timelines

For a master's thesis, the supervisory committee must review the student's research proposal and recommend its approval not less than three months prior to the date set for the oral examination.

For a doctoral dissertation, the supervisory committee must review the student's research proposal and recommend its approval not less than six months prior to the date set for the oral examination.