

Dissertation Proposal

All students in psychology have to complete a dissertation proposal requirement that consists of a written proposal draft and a subsequent meeting with the dissertation committee. (In case the student has not yet formed a dissertation committee, the student's advising committee forms a plan with the student to form a dissertation committee and arrive at a dissertation proposal within a reasonable time frame.) The specific format of the proposal draft (e.g., short memo or longer document) and the format of the committee meeting (e.g., formal defense or open discussion) can be negotiated between the student and the committee. However, the meeting must result in a document that is a minimum of two pages ("Dissertation Proposal") that defines the plan formulated by the student and the committee regarding (at least) the topic and scope of the dissertation, method and scope of data collection, and analysis strategies.

The Dissertation Proposal has several functions: First, it encourages the student to think through details of hypothesis formation, design, and analysis strategies in advance of data collection. Second, the student and the dissertation committee arrive at shared expectations regarding the scope of the dissertation and details in design, data collection, and analysis. That way, unwelcome surprises for both parties (e.g., an advisor's request for more studies or a student's failure to provide certain analyses) are made less likely. Third, when new faculty are added to a dissertation committee at a time when data collection has already been completed (which may be true for the outside member), the newly added member can consult a document that specifies the goals of the dissertation and can thus more fairly assess the success of the completed dissertation in meeting these goals.

The Dissertation Proposal must be submitted to the graduate secretary for filing and can be consulted by the student, by current members or new members of the student's dissertation committee, and by the GEC (e.g., for evaluation purposes). Updates or changes to the Proposal should be made in writing to the graduate secretary after communication among all dissertation committee members.

The Dissertation Proposal is due no later than the end of the winter term of the student's fourth year. The student's dissertation committee or advising committee can request an extension by notifying the Graduate Education Committee Chair or Graduate Secretary. This request must be accompanied by a proposed timeline in order to be approved.

Clinical students must have a formally accepted Dissertation Proposal prior to going on internship. The Proposal must be approved by November 1 to permit faculty to write letters of recommendation. All program requirements must also be completed by this time, or a reasonable plan must be proposed for their completion by the departure date for internship.

Dissertation Proposal Approval Form

Name: _____ Has completed a dissertation proposal consisting of a written document including the background, method, and plans for data analysis. This document has been reviewed by the entire committee.

A meeting of all committee members was held on: _____

The decision was:

_____ Proposal approved as is (attach proposal)

_____ Proposal approved with specified changes; another meeting not required (attach updated proposal)

_____ Proposal not approved; a second meeting required

_____ Other (specify)

Dissertation Title: _____

Dissertation Committee Members

Print Faculty Names

Faculty Signatures

Chair,

Student Signature _____

Date of Committee Approval _____

GEC Approval _____ Date _____

Documentation of Research Compliance Approval

University policy requires that students who expect to engage in research involving human or animal subjects receive approval of their research procedures prior to the collection of data. Please see the websites below if you have any questions about human/animal subjects approval:

<https://rcs.uoregon.edu/content/human-subjects-applications-forms>

<https://aws.uoregon.edu/>

After receiving approval, please fill out the following and return this form to the Graduate Secretary. This form must be on file **before** you apply for your Oral Defense.

Did you include **human subjects** in your research for this degree? ___Yes ___No
If yes, enter your protocol number from the Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects: _____.

Did you include **animal subjects** in your research for this degree? ___Yes ___No
If yes, enter your protocol number from the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee: _____.

Print Names

Signatures

Date

Student:

Advisor*:

*Your signature certifies your approval of this student's research project and the validity of the protocol number noted above.