

# Graduate research proposals in PBGG

**MS Thesis.** A thesis proposal approved by the Advisory Committee must be submitted to the Administrative Manager by the end of the second semester. These items become a permanent part of the student's Institute file and record. The thesis proposal is to ensure that a student starts early on a research project suitable for a thesis. A draft plan of the proposed research will be formulated together with the student's major professor by the end of the first semester. The full proposal must be finalized and approved by the student's advisory committee by the end of the second semester at a scheduled committee meeting, with committee members present, either physically or digitally. Committee members must receive a copy of the proposal at least 7 days prior to the scheduled meeting.

As a minimum, these research proposals should contain the research objectives and rationale, a proposed research approach, a research timeline, and a literature review of all the pertinent literature. The level of detail in the materials and methods section is at the discretion of the student and the committee members. Students are encouraged to prepare a slide presentation of their proposed research to present at their committee meeting.

Faculty are strongly encouraged to assign the research hours a grade of "U" for students who do not have their proposal approved by the deadline. At the committee's discretion, a student may receive an additional semester to finalize the proposal before the student is penalized with a "U".

**PhD Research Prospectus.** The dissertation must represent originality in research, independent thinking, scholarly ability, and technical mastery of a field of study. The Major Professor and Advisory Committee shall guide the student in dissertation planning. The student is required to prepare a dissertation prospectus which provides an introduction, rationale, and description of the proposed research to be conducted, along with a literature review of all the pertinent literature and a proposed research timeline. The level of detail in the materials and methods section is at the discretion of the student and the committee members. The prospectus must be presented to, and approved by, the Advisory Committee before significant research is undertaken, and no later than the end of the student's third semester. Committee members must receive a copy of the proposal at least 14 days prior to the scheduled meeting, and all committee members must be present, either physically or digitally. Students are encouraged to prepare a slide presentation of their proposed research and pertinent background information to present at their committee meeting.

Approval of the dissertation prospectus signifies that members of the Advisory Committee believe that it proposes a satisfactory research study. A copy of the approved prospectus must be placed in the student's departmental file and becomes a permanent part of his/her record.

Faculty are strongly encouraged to assign the research hours a grade of "U" for students who do not have their proposal approved by the deadline. At the committee's discretion, a student may receive an additional semester to finalize the proposal before the student is penalized with a "U".