

MSTC Final Experience: Thesis

Thesis Proposal Form and Instructions

Title of Proposed Thesis:

I. Student Information

Name (Last, First):

Student ID Number:

Semester (Mark X where needed.): Fall Spring Year:

Number of semester hours completed in MSTC program (must be at least 15):

Email Address:

II. Committee Information

Please name the faculty member whom you would like to chair your thesis committee as well as another faculty member to be a second member. Ideally, your choices will reflect faculty members with expertise in the area you seek to study and will be people with whom you have already been in contact.

Preferred Committee Chair:

Preferred 2nd Committee Member:

MSTC Final Experience: Thesis

III. Proposal Structure and Content

Overview

Usually written for an academic audience, the thesis is a scholarly document that questions or otherwise contributes to an existing body of knowledge. The thesis may analyze a real world project or text(s) in light of current theory and research. Having a clearly focused and articulated research question or questions is crucial.

Please write a proposal for your thesis. In the proposal, include the information listed below.

Introduction

In your introduction, provide an overview of your chosen topic and discuss its significance. Also, explain why you have decided to pursue it.

Research Question(s)

State your research question(s):

- Justification of research:
Explain how your research fits into the larger academic context; in other words, what are you contributing to the existing body of knowledge? Are you asserting something contrary to prevailing knowledge in the field? Are you filling a gap? Are you answering a lingering question from others' work? Are you continuing research by applying models, theories or concepts to a new area of study?

Research Method

Describe your research method. It must help you answer your research question(s). Identify and describe appropriate academic methodologies and theories that are part of your planned approach:

- What theory or best practice learned in your coursework grounds your analytical or methodological approach?
- Why is the chosen method appropriate for answering your research question(s)?

Research Timeline

Present a timeline for completing the thesis project, including proposed schedule for meetings with your committee chair and/or 2nd committee member, deadlines for conducting research, drafting and revising chapters/sections and projected defense date. You can use a task schedule in a Gantt chart format to present major dates and tasks.

Limitations of the Study

Consider and describe any potential obstacles and the feasibility of the proposed thesis.

MSTC Final Experience: Thesis

Human Subject Research Approval (if Applicable)

Submit evidence that necessary approval from the [Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects](#) has been requested by attaching:

- A completed application and copy of the submission email
- An email of “approval” or “revise and resubmit” from the CPHS, if available.

You will not be required to submit evidence that your request to conduct research using human subjects has been approved when you submit your thesis proposal; however, approval will be required in order for you to collect data.

Preliminary Bibliography

Attach a preliminary list of academic resources that will be used in your thesis (at least 20 sources from peer-reviewed academic journals and books).

Project Approvals (Attach as an Appendix)

In this section, you should present any supplemental documents and approvals needed to complete the project. Such documentation may include the following:

- Evidence that necessary workplace approvals have been granted (if you need to access company files or use other company resources)
 - Letter(s) from employer
 - Email(s) from employer

Proposal Formatting

Your proposal should be submitted as a Microsoft Word file and must have standard front and back matter documents. You need to provide appropriate visual elements (i.e. headings, bullets, etc.) that make your document more accessible to your readers.