

INSTRUCTION SHEET FOR PREPARATION OF THESIS/DISSERTATION RESEARCH PROPOSAL

General Suggestions

The proposal should be organized to answer the following questions:

1. What do you intend to do?
2. Why is the work important?
3. What has been done already?
4. How are you going to do the work?

Format – This research proposal should be typed *single-spaced*.

1. *Title Sheet* – Title of the research project followed by your name and a **200 word** summary of the proposed thesis/dissertation research. *One page*.

2. *Research Plan*

- A. *Specific Aims or Problem Statement*: State concisely and realistically what the research described in the proposal is intended to accomplish. What hypothesis is to be tested or what question is to be addressed? **Do not exceed one page**.
- B. *Significance*: Briefly sketch the background (or literature review) to your thesis/dissertation proposal, critically evaluate existing knowledge, and specifically identify the gaps which the proposal is intending to fill. State concisely the importance of the research described in the proposal by relating the specific aims to longer term objectives. *Do not exceed three pages*.
- C. *Research Accomplishments to Date*: If you have conducted any research pertinent to your thesis/dissertation proposal, briefly describe your results. Also, list relevant courses or other experiences which enhance your competence to perform the proposed research. *Do not exceed four pages* of written text. (Additional pages may be used for figures, graphs, tables, etc.)
- D. *Methods*: Briefly discuss the research design and procedures to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the proposal. If any new methodology is being used, describe its advantage over existing methodology. Include the kinds of data to be gathered (when applicable) and the means by which the data will be analyzed and interpreted. The discussion should provide sufficient evidence that the specific aims are attainable. It is not necessary to include detailed methodological/technical protocols. *Do not exceed ten pages*.
- E. *Literature Cited*: Cite the pertinent literature in the text and provide the complete reference list in the Literature Cited section. Each citation must include the names of all authors, the name of the book or journal, volume number, page numbers, and year of publication. *Although no page limitation is specified for this part of the proposal, make every attempt to be judicious in compiling the bibliography. It should be relevant and current. It need not be exhaustive*.
- F. *Supervision and Facilities*: Name the person(s) proposed to be immediately responsible for supervising your thesis/dissertation research and laboratory (or other facilities) where most of your proposed research will take place. If the proposed project involves collaboration with another institution, give evidence that the collaborator (s) agrees to participate.
- G. *Human Subjects*: Include all human research-related instruments to be used in this study, sample of subject consent form(s), and instructions to subjects as appropriate.