

Note: Before writing the dissertation proposal, students should review the policies and procedures governing the writing of doctoral dissertations, copies of which are available in the Office of Advanced Degrees.

Instructions: Students should create their dissertation proposal based on the following template. This proposal is to be developed by the student in consultation with the student's supervisory committee which consists of the primary and secondary supervisors and the Advanced Degree Director. The primary supervisor will take the lead in the initial phases of the development of the proposal, but will involve the secondary supervisor as the proposal takes shape. The supervisory committee must meet together with the student to review and approve the proposal before it proceeds to the faculty for consideration and approval.

I. On the first page provide this information:

A. Student Information

1. Student Name and ID number
2. Degree Program (Ph.D., Christian Theology)
3. Date of submission of proposal
4. Date of projected submission of dissertation

B. Program progress

1. Courses (name of course, semester taken, grade)
 - a. Research Methods:
 - b. Interdisciplinary Studies #1:
 - c. Interdisciplinary Studies #2:
 - d. Advanced Topics #1:
 - e. Advanced Topics #2:
 - f. Advanced Topics #3:
 - g. Directed Study #1:
 - h. Directed Study #2:
2. Language requirements (name of language, exam/course, date, pass/fail)
 - a. Ancient Language(s):
 - b. Modern Language(s):
3. Comprehensive exams:
 - a. Reading Area #1 (name of area, projected date of exam):
 - b. Reading Area #2 (name of area, projected date of exam):
 - c. Reading Area #3 (name of area, projected date of exam):
(if you have further Reading Areas add these after #3)

C. Supervisory Committee

1. Primary Supervisor:
2. Secondary Supervisor:

D. Dissertation Proposal

1. Proposed title
2. Thesis statement

E. Approvals

Approved by Primary Supervisor: _____ Date: _____

Approved by Secondary Supervisor: _____ Date: _____

Approved by Dean/Advanced Degree Director: _____ Date: _____
(for submission to the faculty)

Approved by Faculty (Dean or designate): _____ Date: _____

II. Beginning with a new page provide this information:

Proposed Title
(Centred at the top of the page)

- A. Description of Topic and its Importance: This section will describe the proposed research field and its importance, set in the context of the history of research. This section must end with a clear thesis statement (to be included on the cover sheet as well) for your project which sets out in brief form the precise proposition or hypothesis that your project will seek to demonstrate and the original contribution your project will make to the research field.
- B. Research Methodology/Model/Framework: This section will provide the research methodology, investigative model, and/or theoretical framework for the dissertation, describing the past development of this methodology/model/framework, the importance of this methodology/model/framework to the particular research field and the usefulness of the methodology/model/framework for generating and verifying the conclusions reached in the dissertation.
- C. Outline/Structure of the dissertation: This section will provide an account of the projected organization of the dissertation with a description of each section (chapter). The relationship between the sections should be described as well.
- D. Work Plan/Timeline: This section will provide a concise description of the proposed procedure for the development of your dissertation with a preliminary schedule for research and writing. This usually does not follow the outline of the dissertation, but rather the proposed order of research.
- E. Preliminary Bibliography: This section comprises 30-50 sources directly relevant to the dissertation. A thorough and standard academic citation style should be followed.

N.B.-The proposal is to follow the conventions of academic writing, that is, appropriate layout, documentation and flow of argument. The normal length will be 5-10,000 words.