

EES Guidelines – Preparation of Graduate Thesis Research Proposal

1. Format

- a. Introduction – statement of problem area and research question, rationale for importance of proposed research, study objectives and hypotheses
- b. Literature review – summarize examples of relevant literature on research topic
- c. Methods – summarize the basic experimental design, the proposed sampling and analysis scheme, study sites, and any statistical methods to be used
- d. Results – indicate the expected results or output of the proposed research
- e. Literature cited

2. Recommended length – 7 to 15 pages

3. Role of major advisor and graduate committee

- a. The thesis proposal should be prepared in consultation with the major advisor and committee members
- b. The major advisor should show new students examples of successful research proposals from former students

4. Importance of the thesis research proposal

- a. The thesis research proposal is the roadmap for a successful research investigation
- b. The research proposal should ideally be prepared prior to the initiation of the research investigation

Good luck!