

General Guidelines for Preparing a Thesis Prospectus

In consultation with their Supervisors, and during the second half of Sociology 602 (Master's Seminar in Professional Sociology), students will prepare a thesis prospectus. (The prospectus may also be developed as part of the requirements for the student's chosen research methods course.) When the prospectus is acceptable to the Supervisor, a copy of the title page will be posted on the graduate bulletin board. A copy of the entire prospectus will be filed in the graduate office and made available to all faculty and graduate students. The Supervisor's signature on the title page constitutes formal departmental approval of the prospectus. This must be completed before the thesis research is underway. The Graduate Program Director will refuse approval for the Thesis Oral Examination unless the prospectus has been appropriately approved and the title page posted.

Length: The typical length of a thesis prospectus is approximately 15 pages.

Due Date: May 10 (in order for Spring/Summer funding to be released).

Format and Structure:

1. Title Page:

- title
- student's name
- Supervisor's name, signature & date of approval
- The two sentences "In compliance with the Department of Sociology Graduate handbook regulations, only the cover sheet of this proposal is being circulated. A complete copy of the thesis prospectus is on file in the Graduate Office."

2. Statement of Problem (general hypothesis if applicable)

3. Theoretical Context

4. Literature Review (highly selective major sources)

5. Research Design

- a. Data Source (e.g. library, secondary analysis, survey)
- b. Sample (if applicable)
- c. Measurement Instruments (if applicable)
- d. Data Analysis

6. Proposed Chapter Outline

7. Work Timetable

8. Preliminary Bibliography
