



Ph.D. Dissertation Proposal Format

Ph.D. Dissertation Proposal:

The dissertation proposal is prepared by the student in consultation with the entire dissertation committee. All dissertation committee members must accept the proposal. The dissertation proposal must provide a thorough survey of the research activities in the research topic area and it must present original and innovative research ideas and preliminary results as well as defined research scope and directions. The dissertation proposal should be prepared in accordance with the following format:

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- Cover Page - title; student name, date, signature of graduate student; names, signatures of student's dissertation committee, dates signed.
- Background Summary - including review of prior research.
- Problem Statement - Including importance of topic and expected contributions to the field.
- Preliminary Results.
- Proposed Scope and Directions - Including approach or research methodology.
- Bibliography - Full citations of cited literature.

Proposed Outline of Dissertation, Schedule for Completion and Milestones - Displays a plan for completion of dissertation. Students working on their proposals after they have completed all their formal coursework should register for ECE 603 Pre-Dissertation Research. This course, graded Pass/Fail, gives recognition to the effort involved in writing a thorough dissertation proposal and allows students to maintain their active status in the program between the time they complete their formal coursework and the time they can register for dissertation research. Once completing the written and oral comprehensive exams, advisors should register their advisee's for one of the 3 sections offered every semester for ECE 701. Be sure to register for the section with the correct number of credits. All sections are initially listed with the Graduate Program Director as the instructor. After add/drop period, any student who does not have an approved proposal on file will be dropped from ECE 701 and placed in ECE 603 or ECE 604. After a review has been made of students registered for ECE 701, sections will be created for each faculty member advising students with approved proposals.

Handbook for Graduate Students: *Link below!*

https://www.umassd.edu/media/umassdartmouth/collegeofengineering/ecedept/ece_graduate_handbook.pdf