

Graduate Student Thesis or Dissertation Research Proposal: Suggested Outline

All Agricultural & Resource Economics MS thesis option or Natural Resource Economics Concentration PhD students are required to prepare an acceptable research proposal as the first phase of their thesis or dissertation research. Prior to writing the proposal, students should consult with their Major Professors and other faculty members about possible topics, relevant literature, suggested methods and procedures, data sources, and other research issues. Acceptance of the research proposal will be documented on Form C by the signatures of each Faculty Committee member.

The following outline may serve as a guide for developing the proposal. The actual content and format will vary depending on the nature of the research planned and the objectives of each student's committee.

- I. Title Page
 - A. Title should be descriptive, clear and concise using key words that indicate the nature of the research.
 - B. Identifying Information should include the student's name and other pertinent information.

- II. Problem Identification and Explanation
 - A. Provide some background.
 - B. State the problem.
 - C. State the significance of the problem.

- III. Objective(s)
 - A. Specify what the research intends to find out, discover, and/or accomplish.
 - B. The Objectives should be related to the identified problem.

- IV. Preliminary Literature Review

- V. Conceptual Framework
 - A. Analyze the problem conceptually.
 - B. State hypotheses.

- VI. Methods and Procedures
 - A. Specify methods and procedures to be used.
 - B. Identify data needs and expected sources.

- VII. Time Schedule for Completing Various Phases of the Study

- VIII. Related Needs, Such as Facilities and Supplies, Travel Plans, and Tentative Budget