

PRESENTATION OF ORIGINAL RESEARCH PROPOSAL

The purpose of the original research proposal is to provide experience in developing and presenting new ideas for research. The student needs to identify a research goal that is significant and achievable, choose a suitable approach, and describe the major steps and techniques required to reach that goal. A committee consisting of the major professor, as chair, and two other faculty members selected by the major professor evaluates the written proposal and oral presentation. This committee is typically the student's mentor committee, but other faculty members with specific knowledge about the proposal may also be considered.

To begin, the student presents the major professor with one or two suggested research projects and proposed approaches. Upon approval by the major professor, the student develops one of the projects further, preparing a detailed written proposal in a format suggested by the major professor. One week prior to the oral presentation, the student provides a *paper copy* of the proposal to the committee members and prepares an abstract, with references, that the Physical Chemistry Division Coordinator, April Leslie, distributes to all of the physical chemistry faculty and graduate students. *The abstract should include the time, date, and place of the oral presentation.* Please send a copy by email to your committee as well. All those who are interested are welcome to attend the oral presentation.

The oral presentation should not exceed twenty-five minutes. Following the presentation, a question and discussion period ensues. The first portion of this period includes the audience, but the later portion involves only the student and committee. The committee files a written record of its evaluation of the proposal in the Divisional Office, and the major professor discusses the presentation, proposal, and the committee's evaluation with the student. If the committee finds the initial attempt unsatisfactory, it will provide the student with another opportunity to present a proposal at a later date determined by the major professor in consultation with the committee and student. The committee may request further written material instead of or in addition to a second presentation.

Presentation of the Original Research Proposal represents the last phase of the preliminary examination for the Ph.D. A Preliminary Warrant should be obtained from the Graduate School by visiting the Chemistry Graduate Program Coordinator, Steph Nagle, in room 2108. This takes approximately *three* weeks. Successful completion of the Original Research Proposal requirement will be recorded on the Preliminary Warrant, which should then be returned to the Program Coordinator. The completion of this requirement will also be recorded on the student's record sheet in the Chemistry Graduate Program Coordinator office, room 2108. At this time, the candidate should review all of the information on the record sheet to ensure that it is correct and up to date.

The student is responsible for preparing the proposal and scheduling the presentation well in advance of the deadline imposed by the graduate school for becoming a dissertator. Students may present the proposal in the final two weeks before the deadline ***only under extraordinary circumstances*** and with the explicit approval of their entire committee. Taking the exam just before the deadline leaves too little time for the student to repeat the presentation or provide additional material that the committee might request.