



Note: Before writing the thesis proposal, students should review the policies and procedures governing the writing of master's theses available at mcmasterdivinity.ca

Instructions: The proposal is to be developed by the student in consultation with the student's first reader and then sent to the Registrar for approval to distribute to the faculty. Use separate pages to present the thesis proposal, following the outline below:

I. On the first page provide this information:

1. Student Information:

- i. Student Name and ID number
- ii. Degree Program (M.Div. or M.T.S.)
- iii. Date of submission
- iv. Specialization area of thesis (BS, CC, CT, CW, PC, PS):
 1. Do you have a minimum B+ average in the specialization area of the thesis?
 2. Do you have a minimum B+ average overall in your courses to date?

2. Supervisory Committee

- i. First Reader:
- ii. Second Reader (to be assigned):
- iii. External Reader (to be assigned, if needed):

3. Thesis Proposal

- i. Proposed title
- ii. Thesis statement
- iii. Proposal wordcount

4. Approvals

- i. Approved by First Reader: _____ Date: _____
- ii. Approved by Second Reader: _____ Date: _____
- iii. Approved by Faculty (VP Academic or designate):
_____ Date: _____

II. Beginning with a new page, provide this information:

Proposed Title
(Centred at the top of the page)

1. Description of Topic and Its Importance: This section will describe the proposed research field and its importance, set in the context of the history of research. This section must end with a clear thesis statement (to be included on the cover sheet as well) for your project which sets out in brief form the precise proposition or hypothesis that your project will seek to demonstrate and the original contribution your project will make to the research field.
2. Research Methodology/Model/Framework: This section will provide the research methodology, investigative model, and/or theoretical framework for the dissertation, describing the past development of this methodology/model/framework, the importance of this methodology/model/ framework to the particular research field and the usefulness of the methodology/model/ framework for generating and verifying the conclusions reached in the dissertation.
3. Outline/Structure of the Dissertation: This section will provide an account of the projected organization of the dissertation with a description of each section (chapter). The relationship between the sections should be described as well.
4. Work Plan/Timeline: This section will provide a concise description of the proposed procedure for the development of your dissertation with a preliminary schedule for research and writing. This usually does not follow the outline of the dissertation, but rather the proposed order of research.
5. Preliminary Bibliography: This section comprises 20-30 sources directly relevant to the dissertation. A thorough and standard academic citation style should be followed.

N.B. The proposal is to follow the conventions of academic writing, that is, appropriate layout, documentation and flow of argument. The normal length will be 1,500 - 3,000 words.