



Department of Bioengineering Guideline for Proposal Defense

Requirements

- The doctoral proposal defense must be taken within 2 full academic semesters (fall-spring, spring-fall) following passing of the qualifying exam. The proposal defense consist of 1) oral presentation and defense of your research project (35-45 min + Q&A) in front of the student's thesis committee and 2) submission of the proposal document (in either NSF or NIH format, see below) to the committee at least 10 days prior to the presentation. If student fails the candidacy exam, he/she will be given one more chance to take it within one semester. If student fails the second time, he/she will switch to MS (form GS-14) and graduate within one semester.
- NSF format (<https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappguide/nsf14001/gpgprint.pdf>) or NIH format (<https://www.niaid.nih.gov/grants-contracts/write-research-plan#A1>)
- The proposal document of your research project must include the following sections:
 - Project Summary (NSF) / Specific Aims (NIH) (1 single-spaced page)
 - Project Description (NSF) / Research Strategy (NIH) (12 - 15 single-spaced pages including figures)
 - References (single list of <100 articles)
- Although the exact format of the seminar may be determined by the student and advisor, the presentation **must demonstrate**:
 - Critical evaluation of the current literature pertinent to the student's research project (advanced knowledge and opinion)
 - Evidence of having conducted experimental / theoretical study and communicated the findings and interpretation (applied research principles)
 - Ability to form a well-founded hypothesis and construct an approach plan to test the hypothesis to advance knowledge (pragmatic envisioning skills)
- Upon passing of the proposal defense the student must submit the following to the Graduate Student Services Coordinator for departmental file:
 1. Signed GS-5D form (<https://www.clemson.edu/graduate/files/pdfs/GS5D.pdf>).
 2. Assessment forms completed by the advisor (<http://www.clemson.edu/cecas/departments/bioe/documents/proposal-exam-assessment-form.pdf>)

Department of Bioengineering

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