

Guidelines for Dissertation Proposal

PhD in Marine Policy

9-18-2013

Due: 5th semester

Defense/Signatures: Committee members and Associate Director for Marine Policy must approve your proposal on your Student Progress Report. Your major advisor may or may not require an oral defense of the proposal.

Advisor Input: It is important to work with your advisor through the proposal process. He/she will provide guidance on length, content, etc. Use the outline below as a basic framework, which may be adjusted as you and your advisor see fit.

Length: Usually between 3000 to 5500 words for the body of the proposal suffices (see Advisor Input above).

Examples: Examples of past proposals will be posted on the MP Seminar web site.

Outline for Dissertation Proposal:

Title - Propose a title. It may be changed before final submission.

Your Name - Full name.

Date - Date of proposal submission

Background/Introduction - Set the stage for your dissertation. What is the policy issue surrounding your topic? Why is it important?

Purpose - State the purpose of your dissertation. If there are specific research questions, state them. If there are specific hypotheses, state these. Be clear, concise, and analytical.

Approach/Method - Present your approach, theory, method, data, etc. How will you answer your research question(s)? How does it fit into the existing literature? Use subsections as you see fit (eg. theory, literature, method, data).

Reference List - List key references and highlight 5 most important

Target Journals - List two or three target journals for your work. Provide the URLs for the (a) aim and scope and (b) guidelines for submission for each journal.

Tasks - List tasks leading to completion of dissertation (eg., literature review, data collection, etc.).

Due dates - Report target dates for submitting dissertation outline, 1st draft, final draft, and defense. These are goals.

Committee Composition - List committee members and denote major advisor.

Notes for Dissertation Proposal: