

Area-specific thesis proposal MA AS

All MA students of the Applied Social Psychology program are expected to submit a Thesis research proposal to their advisory committee and get the committee's approval before proceeding with their thesis research work.

Normally the proposal will contain the following sections:

1. Introduction
2. Method
3. Analytical approach
4. Expected results (in the case of hypothesis driven work)
5. References
6. Appendices

Appendices normally contain:

- Materials for the intended study (e.g., questionnaires to be used)
- A schedule of the research program that the candidate will follow, including a sequence of milestones and objectives.
- Other relevant information at the discretion of the student

Proposals are typically 15 to 30 pages in length, excluding references and appendices. Proposals should follow the most recent APA formatting guidelines.

Typically, students will submit multiple drafts of their proposals to their advisor prior to submitting it to their committee.

A minimum of **two weeks** will be allowed for any Advisory Committee member, including the advisor, to evaluate any work submitted to them.

When the MA candidate's Advisor has deemed that the candidate's proposal is ready to be circulated to the committee the student will send an electronic copy to members of the advisory committee.

Students are encouraged to review the [Department of Psychology Statistical Methods in Theses: Guidelines and Explanations](#) with their committee (if applicable).

Once the committee has read the proposal, a meeting of the advisory committee will be scheduled to hold a proposal examination. Typically, the examination consists of an oral presentation by the student summarizing the proposed thesis (approximately 20 minutes) followed by questions from the Advisory Committee based on the research proposal. Evaluation of the proposal will be done holistically. Numeric grades are not required; instead the work is reported as either satisfactory or unsatisfactory.

The proposal should strive to evince [critical and creative thinking skills](#), [literacy skills](#) and [communication skills](#) and a [global understanding](#). Proposals must be [professional and adhere to the highest ethical standards](#). Approval of the thesis proposal also entails consideration of the feasibility of the study in terms of time limitations, expenses, and availability of participants, as well as its theoretical and applied value.

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