Area-specific Thesis Proposal MA IO

Every I/O MA student will be expected to submit a Proposal that contains the following sections:

1. Introduction

2. Method

3. Analyses and Proposed Results

4. Proposed Implications

All proposals will be reviewed against the following criteria.

INTRODUCTION

Comprehensively summarizes and references the relevant literature as it pertains to the thesis topic.

Critically points out the most relevant and important theories and empirical evidence to establish a clear purpose and contribution for the thesis.

Demonstrates an accurate and deep understanding of the research literature (the authors/ theorists would be in full agreement with their ideas or findings being summarized in this way).

Hypotheses are well substantiated and clearly follow from the literature review.

For the MA, the proposal introduction is comprehensive, whereas the final version of the MA thesis should be a length appropriate for a journal. That is, we intend for you have a manuscript ready to submit to a journal by the time you complete the Master's thesis. Because this requirement is unique to the I/O area, it may be necessary to inform any committee member who is outside of the I/O area about this requirement.

METHOD

Research design is clearly articulated and follows logically from the literature review.

The method allows for the optimal testing of the research hypotheses.

All relevant measures are described in detail and appropriate based on the subject matter of the thesis.

Drafts of all critical materials, as agreed upon by the committee, are included in the Method section or in an Appendix.

ANALYSES AND PROPOSED RESULTS

Proposed analyses are described in detail.

Predicted results are also presented (in tables or figures) to demonstrate a mastery of the underlying theory and proposed analyses.

Strengths and weaknesses of the research design and measurement are clearly articulated.

PROPOSED IMPLICATIONS

The implications, and importance, of the proposed findings for theory and practice are described in detail for the topic domain.

ORGANIZATION, CLARITY, AND FORMAT

Proposal is structured with a clear organization.

All aspects of the proposal are explored in a highly systematic and disciplined manner.

Appropriate elements of style are consistently used throughout (e.g., transition sentences between paragraphs, appropriate headings).

Sentences are clear and concise.

There are no grammatical errors.

There is consistent and accurate use of APA style.

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