

Master of Science Degree in Biological Sciences

Stanislaus State University



Proposal Defense and Approval

The proposal must be completed by the end of the second semester of enrollment in the program. The student will provide a written thesis proposal to their committee for evaluation and critique. The committee, in a timely manner, will provide feedback to the student with suggestions for any changes that may be needed. Once feedback is received, the student shall schedule an oral defense where they will present a description of the research to the committee in a closed session. The committee is free to ask any questions regarding the proposal and give further feedback/suggestions to the student. The student will either agree to incorporate the recommended changes or successfully defend the proposal as it is by making a convincing argument. A final draft of the proposal that incorporates any and all agreed-upon changes will then be provided to the committee within two weeks following the defense. Committee members will sign the form once they are satisfied that the student is prepared to begin their thesis research.

Once completed, this form, as well as an electronic copy of the final thesis proposal, should be given to the program director to be kept on record.

Student Name _____ **ID #** _____

Proposal Title _____

Signatures

Thesis committee chair: _____
(Name) (Signature) (Date)

2nd committee member: _____
(Vice-Chair if required) (Name) (Signature) (Date)

3rd committee member: _____
(Name) (Signature) (Date)

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Appendix:

The student, with assistance from their committee chair, must complete this table before the proposal will be approved by the committee. For any questions answered in the affirmative, the student must discuss the process for obtaining the necessary permits or approvals with their chair before the proposal can be approved.

	Yes	No
Are endangered species included in the study ? (requires US Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife permits)		
Are any animals or plants being trapped or collected? (requires California Department of Fish and Wildlife Scientific Collection permit)		
Are any vertebrate animals being studied? (requires CSU-Stanislaus Animal Welfare Committee approval)		
Are there human subjects (including surveys)? (requires CSU-Stanislaus IRB approval)		
Will there be any handling or exposure to hazardous materials? (requires CSU-Stanislaus Health and Safety Committee approval)		
Will there be any use of SCUBA? (requires permission of CSU-Moss Landing Safety Committee)		
Is any of the research being conducted in a protected area (e.g. publicly owned parks or refuges, marine protected areas, etc.) or private land? (requires permission of the appropriate agency or landowner)		
Will the student be driving off campus to a field site or other location where research takes place? (requires a travel request and defensive driving certification)		
Will any existing laboratory space or equipment be used? (discuss what is needed with the chair and with any other faculty who manage the space or equipment that is needed)		
Do any research supplies or equipment need to be purchased? (discuss what is needed with the chair and whether BRC funds should be applied for)		

This form was completed on _____ by _____
(Date) (Student Name)

 (Student Signature)

 (Program Director Signature)