

## Ph.D. in the Built Environment Program Research Proposal

The Research Proposal is not a requirement of the Graduate School at the University of Washington, but is specific to the Ph.D. in the Built Environment Program. It is a distinct step in the process of advancement towards the degree, occurring after the student has passed the written and oral examinations. The Research Proposal is to be submitted and presented to the entire committee, which will formally meet with the candidate for its defense. The committee may formally require changes and resubmission and another defense of the proposal, or it may pass the proposal (specifying no or only minor modifications). Once the committee has approved the Research Proposal the candidate may commence dissertation research. The committee chair will notify the Program Coordinator (Neile Graham) when the candidate has passed the defense.

This official description of the Research Proposal is intended to be a clear guide to what needs to be done, but is not overly specific on many points because of the often significant topical and methodological distinctions for the research conducted in the program, and because it is intended that the supervisory committee shall determine the scope and level of detail required to advance. The program view is that good faculty judgment is more important than an established set of requirements that may or may not provide a reasonable guide in the advancement of the candidate's research.

That said, the following areas should be covered:

- A clear statement of the research project itself (that is, the subject matter, its importance, the intended goals, and outcome—final “product”).
- Clear coverage of proposed research methodology, with an explanation of why these methods are appropriate.
- A proposed timeline for the research and producing the final version of the dissertation.
- Status of completing the process for IRB-Human Subjects approval, if needed.
- Foundational bibliography