

ENCS 8511 – Doctoral Research Proposal (6 credits)

The goal of the doctoral research proposal is to focus on the student's Ph.D. research. The proposal must include an extensive critical review of previous work on the subject of the thesis, a detailed research plan of action, expected milestones and timeline. Students are required to defend their doctoral research proposal before a committee that will normally be comprised of the same members as the comprehensive exam committee. Ideally, this is done "within 18 (36) months after the first registration as a full-time (part-time) student in the Ph.D. program, before students are admitted to candidacy for the Ph.D. degree".

Scheduling a Doctoral Proposal Presentation

1. At least one month in advance, the Supervisor, on behalf of the Doctoral Proposal Committee will advise the student in writing, with a copy to the Graduate Program Coordinator, of the date and time of the oral presentation of the doctoral research proposal.
2. Supervisor informs the Graduate Program Coordinator via email (graduate@ciise.concordia.ca) of the student's name, I.D. number, date and time of the presentation and the list of committee members.
3. Graduate Program Coordinator books a conference room.
4. Student sends an electronic copy in PDF format of the Research Proposal to the Graduate Program Coordinator at least three weeks prior to the oral presentation date. The proposal shall not exceed 40 pages, excluding the references.
5. Graduate Program Coordinator will prepare the Notice of Presentation and sends the electronic copy of the research proposal to the committee members. Graduate Program Coordinator will also email the committee members and student of the confirmed date and time of the proposal defense.

Students will be asked to make a **20-minute oral presentation** to the Doctoral Proposal Committee, which is presided by the chair of the committee, followed by a question period. At the end of the examination process, the Doctoral Proposal will be graded as **Accept** or **Reject**. When accepted with modifications, the revised version of the proposal must be completed within one month of the presentation and submitted to the Supervisor and Examination Committee members for final approval. After a successful completion of the doctoral proposal, the student will be recommended to be admitted to candidacy for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

Doctoral Proposal Guidelines

- Students may use an appropriate style manual (LaTeX or Microsoft Word) as specified by their supervisors.
- The proposal should be typed using an 11-or 12-point “Times New Roman” font with 1.5 or double line spacing.
- The main body of the Research Proposal (all chapters and appendices) should be at most 40 pages long, including figures, tables
- The written report format may follow the following suggested outline:

Cover Page

Abstract

Table of Contents

List of Acronyms

Chapter 1 Introduction

Problem Statement

Motivation/Applications (important for non-specialists)

Objectives/Problems

Basic Assumptions/Limitations

Literature Review

Chapter 2 Background

Different sections as appropriate to build the theoretical background for the topic emphasizing the most recent activities relevant to the subject.

Chapter 3 Proposed Research

Theory, Techniques, Preliminary results if available

Chapter 4 Future Work and Conclusions

A detailed research plan of action and expected milestones

Potential Implications to knowledge/theory/practice

References

Appendices.