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 examination 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 GPD (thesis option), of the date and time of the presentation of the doctoral research proposal.
2. Supervisor informs Graduate Program Coordinator via email of the student's name, I.D. number, date and time of the presentation and a list of committee members.
3. Graduate Program Coordinator books the room.
4. Student sends an electronic copy in PDF format of the Research Proposal to the Graduate Program Coordinator (graduate@ciise.concordia.ca) at least three weeks in advance of the presentation date. The proposal shall not be longer than 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 committee members. Graduate Program Coordinator will also email members of the committee and student of the confirmed date and time of defense.

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 Examining 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 Report Guidelines:

- Students may use an appropriate style manual (LaTeX or Microsoft Word) as specified by their supervisors.
- The proposal should be typed using a 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 (Try to use layout non specialized technical language)
  Problem Statement
  Motivation/Applications (important for the non-specialists)
  Objectives/Problems
  Basic Assumption/Limitations
  Literature Review

  **Chapter 2** Background
  Different sections as appropriate to building 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

**Acknowledgments:** These guidelines are largely based on Dr. Sebak’s notes.