

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

ENCS 8511 Doctoral Research Proposal

The goal of doctoral research proposal (ENCS 8511: 6 credits) is to present and justify the proposed research for a PhD thesis. The proposal must include an extensive critical review of previous work on the subject of the thesis, and a detailed research plan of action and expected milestones. Students are required to defend their doctoral proposal before an examining committee that will normally be comprised of the same members as the comprehensive examination committee. Doctoral proposal will be graded as Accept or Reject. When additional modifications are required, the revised version of the proposal must be completed and submitted within one month following the presentation to the Examining Committee for the final decision. PhD students will become PhD candidates after presenting their proposal for doctoral research and passing the proposal defence.

Ph.D. Proposal Report Guideline:

1. Student may use an appropriate style manual as specified by the supervisor.
2. The proposal should be typed using a 12-point "Times New Roman" font with 1.5 line spacing.
3. The main body of the proposal should be 30 pages maximum in length (not including reference list and possible appendices).
4. The proposal report should contain the following components:
 - Cover page with title and student name and ID
 - Abstract
 - Table of contents
 - Introduction/background
 - Literature review pertinent to the proposed research
 - Scope and objectives of the research
 - Detailed methodology, preliminary results and anticipated significance
 - Conclusion, potential future work, and timeline
 - References
 - Appendices where applicable
5. The proposal presentation should be limited to a maximum of 25 minutes.

Procedure of Scheduling a Ph.D. Proposal Defence:

1. Supervisor schedules the proposal presentation with examination committee members, and informs the Graduate Coordinator via email, at least four (4) weeks in advance, of the student's name, ID number, date and time of the presentation and a list of committee members.
2. Student submits the soft copy of the Research Proposal Report and Abstract to Graduate Coordinator at least three (3) weeks in advance of the presentation date.
3. Within two days upon receipt of Proposal Report, Graduate Coordinator sends the Proposal Report and the Notice of Presentation, to members of the committee and the student which includes the confirmed date, time and location of the defense.