

WRITE YOUR  
PRELIMINARY  
PROPOSAL

Construct your preliminary proposal based on the dissertation research project that you have identified with your Major Professor. The preliminary proposal should contain the following elements: (1) Title; (2) Brief description of the project background and significance; (3) A clear statement of the central hypothesis; (4) Project objectives and aims; (5) Experimental Approach; (6) References. The proposal should be hypothesis-driven and describe several cohesive objectives that support a central scientific narrative rather than a series of independent, loosely connected projects.

The preliminary proposal should be no longer than **1 page** excluding references. Preferably 11 point Arial font will be used with margins no smaller than 0.5 inches.

IDENTIFY  
PROPOSED EXAM  
COMMITTEE  
MEMBERS

Identify four Food Science Graduate Group (FSGG) faculty members and another faculty member outside of the graduate group to serve on the exam committee. At least one FSGG member and the member from outside the graduate group must have expertise in the field of study related to your proposed project. Three exam committee members must collectively have expertise in the three core knowledge areas of food science (food chemistry, food microbiology, and food processing). Identify one FSGG member to serve as exam committee chair. Three alternate members may also be specified. Note that proposed **exam committee members shall not be collaborators on the proposed research project**. If a proposed committee member has a collaborative or other formal role in the proposed work, this must be disclosed during submission of the preliminary proposal. Under exceptional circumstances, students may provide a written justification for including such a member if there are no other faculty with the expertise to adequately assess the student's understanding of a major component of the proposed research. It should be noted that the Student Advancement Committee (SAC) will consider the requested exam committee members but is not obligated to assign them.

SUBMIT YOUR  
PRELIMINARY  
PROPOSAL

The preliminary proposal should be submitted for review by the SAC during the second year of doctoral studies. **For the 2021/2022 academic year, students should submit their preliminary proposal by December 14, 2021.** The submission form and preliminary proposal should be sent to the Graduate Program Coordinator, Samantha Arcement ([bftvadvising@ucdavis.edu](mailto:bftvadvising@ucdavis.edu)). The submission form can be found at: <https://foodscience.ucdavis.edu>

REVIEW THE  
DECISION

Preliminary proposals are reviewed the SAC. The SAC will report the membership of the exam committee, provide feedback on the proposed project, and make recommendations on the next steps for scheduling the qualifying the