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 TWO PROPOSED EXAM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Identify one Food Science Graduate Group faculty member and another faculty member outside of the graduate group who both have expertise in the field of study related to your proposed project. 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. The remaining three exam committee members, representing expertise in the three core knowledge areas of food science (food chemistry, food microbiology, and food processing), and the committee Chair will be selected by the SAC.

SUBMIT YOUR PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL

The preliminary proposal should be submitted for review by the SAC during the second year of doctoral studies or by the date set by the SAC. Unique to the 2019/2020 academic year, there will be two review deadlines, the final week of fall quarter (2nd or 3rd-year and beyond) and the final week of winter quarter (2nd year), to ease the transition into the new review framework. For the 2019/2020 academic year, any students that have already completed their second year within the graduate program but have not completed the qualifying exam should submit their preliminary proposal by December 6, 2019. Students in their second year may submit their preliminary proposal by either December 6th, 2019 or March 13th, 2020. The submission form and preliminary proposal should be sent to the Graduate Program Coordinator, Holly Ly (bftadvising@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 exam.