

UConn HEALTH

Dissertation Proposal for Biomedical Science PhD students

Format

The Dissertation Proposal is a required non-course milestone for students in University of Connecticut doctoral programs. The proposal is a brief description of the dissertation research project and is typically about 10 pages long. Although the format is at the discretion of the advisory committee, the proposal is typically written as the research section of grant proposal. Dissertation Proposals are reviewed with the following questions in mind:

1. Is the proposal well written, well organized, and well argued?
2. Does the proposal describe a project of appropriate scope?
3. Does the student demonstrate knowledge of the subject and an understanding of the proposed method of investigation?
4. Does the student show awareness of the relevant research by others?
5. Does the student consider how the proposed investigation, if successful, will contribute to knowledge?

Approval Process

The [Plan of Study](#) and the [General Examination](#) must be completed before the Dissertation Proposal is submitted. If either is missing from the student's record, then these milestones must be completed prior to submission of the Dissertation Proposal. Approvals include:

- Members of the student's advisory committee.
- A review committee. The Biomedical Science PhD program has designated the Chair of the Graduate Programs Committee as the review committee to approve the Dissertation Proposals. If the Chair of the GPC is a member of the student's advisory committee, the Vice Chair of the GPC will review the Dissertation Proposal.

After the advisory committee has approved the Dissertation Proposal, send the proposal and the signed [dissertation proposal form](#) to phdbiomed@uchc.edu. Once approved by the GPC Chair, the Dissertation Proposal and form should be submitted to degreeaudit@uconn.edu.

The program believes it is best to submit the Dissertation Proposal soon after completing the General Examination. In any event, the approved Dissertation Proposal must be on file in the Office of the Registrar before the public announcement of the oral defense of the dissertation.

Approved Dissertation Proposals submitted to the Office of the Registrar will not be considered complete without the inclusion of the following items, if relevant to the dissertation:

- Any required copyright
- Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval
- Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approval
- Human stem cell approval, granted by the Stem Cell Research Oversight (SCRO) Committee
- Any other required approvals

Receipt by the Office of the Registrar of the approved Dissertation Proposal and any required approvals are a basic requirement for eligibility to schedule the public defense of the dissertation and for conferral of the doctoral degree.