

First Doctoral Exam Proposal Requirement

The proposal for the first doctoral exam – also known as the master’s thesis – can be satisfied using one of two approaches. One option is to prepare a brief summary based on five questions created and approved by the BASP faculty. The second option is to pre-register your study on Open Science Framework (OSF) or AsPredicted. Both options should be accompanied by an estimated timeline for completion of the project.

Steps for completing the first doctoral exam proposal:

- 1) Choose Option 1 or Option 2 below. This decision should be made in consultation with your advisor.
- 2) Prepare a table that specifies each stage of your work and the expected completion date. Include target dates for completion of the IRB proposal, data collection, data analysis and the full, APA style manuscript.
- 3) Submit a draft of your proposal summary/pre-registration report and your timeline to both members of your committee. Revise as needed.
- 4) Submit the proposal certification form to the training area head by the end of Spring semester of your second year. See the BASP handbook for details regarding completion of the first doctoral exam.

Option 1
Proposal Summary
(2-5 pages, single-spaced)

I. Problem and significance

Describe the research problem or question you plan to address with your study. Explain why an examination of this question is important, and how the project will contribute to or build upon the existing literature.

II. Background and hypotheses

Provide a brief summary of previous theory and research on your topic, focusing on the key papers that have informed your research questions. Describe the hypotheses to be tested. For complex designs, include figures depicting the expected pattern of findings.

III. Design and Methods

Describe the research to be conducted. Provide enough information about your design (e.g., correlational, experimental), sample, independent and dependent variables, and procedures to be followed so that readers can evaluate the quality of your proposed study. Include a rationale for your chosen sample size.

IV. Proposed analyses

Describe the analyses you will conduct to test your hypotheses. Include within your description references to any main effects and interactions to be tested.

V. References

List those works that are most central to your research question, as cited in section I and II of this prospectus.

Option 2
Pre-registration
(Page length and content to conform to pre-registration requirements)

Choose one of the following pre-registration options.

- 1) Open Science Framework: Pre-Registration in Social Psychology (van 't Veer & Giner-Sorolla)
<https://osf.io/56g8e/>
- 2) As Predicted
<https://aspredicted.org>

First Doctoral Exam Proposal Certification Form

Student Name: _____

Year Matriculated: _____

By signing below, I certify that I have reviewed the student's first doctoral exam proposal/pre-registration report and estimated timeline and have agreed to serve on the student's first doctoral exam committee.

Primary Advisor (print): _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Second Reader (print): _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Please submit this form to the Training Area Head. The first doctoral proposal should be submitted by the end of Spring semester of the student's first year in the program.