

## **Guidelines for Ph.D. Research Proposal**

### **Time:**

The written proposal for Ph.D. dissertation research should be presented to the committee within one month after the student completes the last part of the written comprehensive examination. The committee will then convene, between a week and a month after the receipt of the proposal copy, for the oral presentation of the proposal and discussion of the written comprehensive examination. It is strongly advised that the proposal presentation be done prior to completing significant amount of the proposed research work.

### **Contents:**

The proposal should, at the minimum, include the following.

1. A clear statement of the research problem and the goals of the proposed work.
2. The extant scientific and engineering knowledge leading to the research problem.
3. The importance and/relevance of the problem to the discipline and the expected original contribution to the knowledge base.
4. The approach and methodology to be followed and the justification for the same.
5. Any preliminary work done including results and the remaining work per proposal.
6. A time-line for the completion of the remaining tasks and expected date of graduation.
7. A list of most relevant publications in the specific problem area.

### **Length:**

The proposal should be written in a clear and concise manner for all committee members to understand the major points, given the fact that not all of them will have the in-depth knowledge of an active researcher in that specific problem area. It is also suggested that the written proposal be limited to 15 pages in length unless there is a strong need to exceed that limitation.