

## Graduate Program in Philosophy

### Proposal Contents

The proposal should include:

1. **A formal cover sheet**, which includes the following information: student name, working-title of the thesis/dissertation, date the thesis/dissertation writing will commence, date of planned completion, and the suggested supervisory committee.
2. **A short description of the project**, which briefly summarizes the proposal, how the student proposes to accomplish the task, and how the results would contribute to scholarship in the field. This short description should be one double-spaced page or less.
3. **A detailed description of the project**, which would permit an accurate assessment of the proposed thesis/dissertation. The detailed description should be a **maximum of 3500 words** and should cover the following topics:
  - a. Scope and objectives of the research.
  - b. An account of the existing state of scholarship on the subject, and an explanation or justification of the undertaking of the project and of its potential contribution to knowledge.
  - c. Research strategy, hypotheses and methods including a tentative list of the divisions, phases, or chapters into which the dissertation will fall, so far as the student can see them at this early stage of his/her work.
  - d. Work already completed and scheduled work to be done.
4. **A selective bibliography** done according to *The Chicago Manual of Style: The 13th Edition...Revised and Expanded* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1982). For easy reference see: Kate L. Turabian's *A manual for writers of term papers, theses, and dissertations, 5th ed.* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1987).

The selective bibliography should list:

- a. the primary sources (texts, editions, etc.) on which the dissertation is to be based,
- b. the *chief* secondary sources (critical, biographical, etc.) which bear most closely on the subject.

**Please Note:** A growing bank of past proposals is available to view from the Graduate Program Assistant.