

PH.D. IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES – PRELIMINARY THESIS PROPOSAL MEETING FORM

The goal of this meeting is to identify a research advisory committee and to establish clear expectations of the thesis proposal defense to take place in early February. Student preparation for the Preliminary Thesis Proposal Meeting should include reading relevant literature, with the goal of developing an understanding of possible projects and identifying the significance of the proposed work within their chosen field of study. Preparation should also include learning particular technical and analytical skills to gain an appreciation of the time required to obtain and analyze data, and/or to generate hypotheses that will form the basis of the thesis. The Preliminary Thesis Proposal Meeting is used to help students focus their work and also identify any weaknesses that need to be corrected prior to the proposal defense.

The meeting should take place prior to October 1. Exceptions may be granted after discussion with the GAC.

Return the completed form to the Graduate Programs Office, Mellon Institute 415.

Name:

Date:

Laboratory:

Thesis Proposal Topic:

Date for Thesis Proposal Defense (to be completed in first two weeks of February):

Research Advisory Committee (RAC):

Research Advisor (print):

Signature:

Committee Member 1 (print):

Signature:

Committee Member 2 (print):

Signature:

Student Signature:

The following recommendation page must be completed by your Research Advisor and returned with the completed form.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Please comment as necessary on the expectations for the defense thesis proposal.

Recommendations may include:

1. The expected scope and focus of specific aims:
2. Level and types of background knowledge expected:
3. Preliminary data needed to support hypotheses:
4. Quality of written and presentation skills:

Please detail any particular support identified that could help candidate meet thesis proposal expectations.

Examples may include:

1. Additional mentoring with lab skills:
2. Increased time spent on mastering particular or general skills:
3. Additional time reading literature and/or suggestion of courses or online learning:
4. Additional support with presentation and/or writing skills: