

Carnegie Mellon DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

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

By October 1, students are required to hold their Preliminary Thesis Proposal Meeting, during which they meet with their RAC to refine plans for the thesis project and select a defense date. Exceptions may be granted after discussion with GAC. One week prior to the meeting, each student submits a one-page summary of the proposed project to the committee members. During the meeting, students are advised to prepare a 15-minute project presentation using 3 to 5 slides for illustration, with the format subject to change after discussion with their advisor.

During this meeting, students must also discuss the format of the thesis proposal with their committee.

After the preliminary meeting, students must email the preliminary thesis defense form to the Graduate Program Office to bio-graduate-office@andrew.cmu.edu.

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 emailed to bio-graduate-office@andrew.cmu.edu

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: