

**Social Science of Sport, Sport Management
Department of Kinesiology
Neag School of Education
Dissertation Proposal Review Policy**

1. The student shall present a written draft of the dissertation proposal to his/her Doctoral Advisory Committee (AC). This will take place after the student has successfully completed the Doctoral Comprehensive Examination. The AC will consist of a Major Advisor who holds graduate faculty status, preferably in the student's field of study or concentration, and at least two additional faculty members who hold doctorates and hold graduate faculty status. The AC may include faculty members from other departments within the University of Connecticut, or members from other institutions who have received prior approval of the Graduate School. The role of the AC will be to oversee and approve the student's doctoral proposal and dissertation defense.
2. The dissertation proposal and dissertation manuscript will follow Department of Kinesiology (EKIN) guidelines. (see attached *Format for the Dissertation Proposal*)
3. The student will provide a written copy of the dissertation proposal [previously approved by the Major Advisor], and announce the presentation date, to each member of the AC and EKIN faculty, at least two weeks prior to public presentation.
4. The student will present his/her dissertation proposal to the members of the AC, EKIN faculty, other interested faculty, and graduate students. This proposal presentation will be announced via e-mail, by posting flyers on bulletin boards, and placing fliers in all Kinesiology faculty members' mailboxes. In addition, the information for the proposal presentation will be shared with the Sport Management laboratory coordinator. The coordinator will distribute this information to doctoral and master's students in the sport management program. Faculty members who attend this open forum will offer revision suggestions to the student and AC regarding rationale, scientific merit, experimental design, statistical analyses, and ethical involvement of human participants. A minimum of 5 faculty members must be present during the dissertation proposal.
5. Following the proposal presentation, the student will work with the AC to develop a final proposal based on comments provided. The AC will provide a final approval of the written proposal.
6. After receiving tentative approval from his or her AC, the student should submit the proposal to the Institutional Review Board (or to the Department Head in cases in which the proposal is exempt) for human subjects approval. Final approval cannot be granted until IRB approval (or exemption) is obtained. Specific details, forms, and IRB requirements may be found at this web address: <http://irb.uconn.edu/forms.html>

**Social Science of Sport, Sport Management
Department of Kinesiology
Neag School of Education**

Format for Dissertation Proposal

1. Title Page
2. Abstract
3. Introduction
4. Statement of the Problem
5. Background of the Study
6. Research Questions or Hypotheses
7. Methods and Procedures
8. Limitations
9. References (Limited to those cited in the proposal.)

1. Title Page

The title page should include the information ordinarily encountered on the title page of the dissertation except that the proposal should be labeled as a dissertation proposal, not as a dissertation. Because some computer-compiled bibliographies include only the first five words of the title, the first five words should, therefore, contain a substantive description of the study. A subtitle may be included.

2. Abstract

The abstract is expected to be brief (not to exceed 350 words) and should summarize the following: Introduction, Statement of the Problem, Background of the Study, Research Questions or Hypotheses, and Methods and Procedures.

3. Introduction

This section introduces the reader to the domain of the study and provides a general overview of the circumstances, issues, and background leading up to the problem under investigation.

4. Statement of the Problem

The problem statement should identify briefly the state of uncertainty or dissatisfaction with present knowledge in the field. Then it should clearly and precisely identify the purpose of the study in terms of how it will help to advance our knowledge in the field.

5. Background of the Study

A doctoral dissertation is not intended to be an isolated undertaking but rather an inquiry, which has an intended place in some larger body of knowledge. This section

should include a review of the relevant theoretical and empirical works, which provide a broad background, or a theoretical grounding to the study. **In addition, candidates are required to demonstrate the link between their study and the body of knowledge in which the study is grounded.**

6. Research Questions or Hypotheses

Research questions or hypotheses should be stated clearly. These should flow logically from the discussion of the Background of the Study and should be consistent with the Statement of the Problem

7. Methods and Procedures

This section should indicate what type of study is being conducted, how the study will be conducted, what data or information will be used, how it will be obtained, what controls will be applied to ensure integrity, and what sampling techniques will be employed. Thus, the section should convey the appropriateness of the data/information for answering the research questions; and, most importantly, it should describe the techniques for analyzing the data with direct reference to the research questions or hypotheses.

A complete description of the instruments or procedures to be used in gathering data should be provided. All proposals are expected to include relevant information about the technical quality of these instruments or procedures. Any instruments/interview protocols developed by the researcher should accompany the proposal in an Appendix.

8. Limitations

Students are required to address clearly the shortcomings and/or weaknesses of the research, which may impact the findings, as well as the generalizability of these findings.

9. References

All studies cited in the proposal should be included using standard APA citation methods.

Page Considerations for the Dissertation Proposal

1. The title page is not numbered.
2. The Abstract is not numbered, or else is numbered in italics.
3. The Introduction starts on a separate page, and is numbered page 1.
4. Students have a maximum of 25 pages for the body of the prospectus, not counting the Title Page, Abstract, References, or Appendices.
5. The 25-page limit will be enforced. This limit covers prospectuses using standard 1" margins and double spacing.
6. The pages on which the references are listed are either not numbered, or else they are numbered in sequence following the body of the prospectus (i.e., if the last page of the body of the prospectus is page 9, then the first page of the References section is page 10, etc.). The pages in the References section are not counted towards the 25 page maximum length of the prospectus.
7. A practical hint for keeping the prospectuses shorter is to avoid using vertical "bullets" or points numbered and stacked on top of each other. Numbered points should be integrated into a standard sentence or paragraph format.
8. Another hint is to place in Appendices (separately labeled "Appendix A," "Appendix B," etc.) things such as instruments, tables, figures, and lengthy descriptions that, while important, do not need to be in the body of the prospectus. It is to the student's advantage to include in the Appendix copies of the consent forms, interview protocols, and instruments to be used in the study which are not broadly know. If any of these materials are lengthy, they may be abridged. While appendices may be helpful, they are not needed in every case.

**Social Science of Sport, Sport Management
Department of Kinesiology
Neag School of Education
Dissertation Proposal Routing Form**

Name of Student _____

Student ID# _____ Concentration Area _____

Proposal Title _____

Proposal Defense

Date of Proposal Defense _____

Proposal Approval Date _____

Major Adviser _____

Dissertation Chairperson (in different) _____

Associate Adviser _____

Associate Adviser _____

Associate Adviser _____

Associate Adviser _____

Human Subjects Approval

Category of Proposal Submission _____

Date of Approval _____