

**SPLS Graduate Program
Dissertation Prospectus**

Completion of a PhD dissertation (or a Master's thesis) requires careful planning and communication with your Advisory Committee. To facilitate this, the Graduate College requires that each PhD student has an approved prospectus or proposal on file with the department, enforced and documented by the Graduate Coordinator. SPLS further requires that the prospectus be submitted by the start of year two, and updated annually. MS students are encouraged, but not required, to develop a prospectus as well.

A prospectus, like a proposal, describes the series of projects intended to be included in the dissertation, and should include the overall goal of the dissertation, titles of proposed chapters, and general approaches that will be employed. It is expected to be brief and in outline form in the early years, and to develop as the dissertation nears completion. Be sure to discuss authorship, if collaborators are involved.

Prepare your prospectus in consultation with your advisor, and share it with your committee at your annual committee meeting. When approved, submit to the Graduate Coordinator, along with this form. Your first version need only be approved by your Advisor.

Student: _____

Date: _____

Advisor: _____

Other committee members:

Date of last committee meeting at which the prospectus was approved: _____

(If this is the first draft and the committee has not seen it yet, leave blank.)

Year in the program: 2 3 4 ≥ 5 Passed comps? Y N

The following are general guidelines for what to include in the prospectus. Your Major Advisor will help you define the structure of your dissertation.

Title of the dissertation

Central question for the work

For each chapter:

Chapter titles

Background and motivation, including hypotheses if relevant

Approaches to be taken

Anticipated results and/or impacts

Literature cited

For Grad Program admin only

Date received:

Notes: