

Guidelines for AED Economics Doctoral Dissertation Proposals

Purpose

The doctoral dissertation proposal is intended to provide evidence that the student has set forth a plan of research that promises to contribute to the body of knowledge in the field of agricultural, environmental, and development economics. It is recognized, however, that experience gained while the research is being carried out will sometimes suggest to the student and his/her Guidance Committee that the dissertation should deviate from the outline in the proposal. The proposal does not prevent the Committee from approving such changes, nor does approval of the proposal constitute an agreement between the student and the Committee that the dissertation, when completed, will be approved.

Format

The proposal must be clear, readily legible, and conform to the following requirements: a) the letters must not be smaller than 12 point; b) the proposal must be double spaced; and c) margins, in all directions, must be at least 1 inch.

Content

Title Page. The title page must include the title of the proposal, the date of the proposal defense, and the names and signatures of both the student and the student's Faculty Adviser.

Summary. The proposal must contain a summary of the proposed research, not more than one page in length. The summary should be a self-contained description of the proposed research activity. The summary should include a statement of objectives and methods to be employed. It must clearly address the intellectual merit of the proposed activity and the broader impacts resulting from the proposed activity. The Summary should be informative to other persons working in the same or related fields and, insofar as possible, understandable to a technically literate lay reader.

Description. The Description should provide a clear statement of the work to be undertaken and must include: objectives for the proposed research activity, the expected significance of the proposed research activity, and relation of the proposed research activity to the present state of knowledge in the field. The Description should outline the general plan of work, including the broad design of activities to be undertaken, and, where appropriate, provide a clear description of methods and procedures. It must describe as an integral part of the narrative, the broader impacts resulting from the proposed activities, addressing how the project will enhance scientific and technological understanding and/or generate benefits to society at large. The Description may not exceed 25 pages. Visual materials, including tables, charts, graphs, maps, and photographs must be presented within the 25-page limitation.

References. Students must follow accepted scholarly practices in providing citations for all source materials relied upon when preparing the proposal. Reference citations must conform to *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* guidelines. There is no page limit for the references.