

Wood Science Graduate Programs

Research Plan Requirement

All Wood Science graduate students are required to prepare a written research plan or proposal with the guidance and direction of their major professor and graduate advisory committee. The research plan should allow flexibility, in case changes or developments occur during research.

The purpose of the research plan is to help students develop their hypothesis and to focus on the details how they plan to approach their research topic. A proposal can bring to light issues with methodology, procedures, IRB approval, or scope of the research before the research begins. The proposal should be reviewed and approved by the committee before significant work on the topic is undertaken.

The plan will be presented to the committee for approval before the end of four terms in residence. Once approved by the student's graduate advisory committee, the plan and signed Research Plan form will be filed in the department office.

The research plan should include the following items:

- Background – why is this research topic important and where does it fit into the broader context of wood science and engineering?
- Literature review – the full review will be left for the thesis, of course, but discuss here key subject areas to be addressed in the review
- Research objectives/hypotheses – what specifically will your research explore and what are your preliminary hypotheses?
- Materials and Methods – how will you conduct the research, what sort of data will be collected and how (e.g., equipment to be used and timing), and how will you analyze the findings? Will your data collection involve human subjects and if so, what is the plan for obtaining IRB approval?

A student who does not submit their research plan after four terms will be considered to be making unsatisfactory progress, and as such, may have their assistantship terminated.

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Research Plan Approval Form

Student Name: _____

Degree Pursuing: MS PhD

Proposed Title: _____

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have reviewed this research plan and judge it to be an appropriate and feasible part of this student's degree program.

_____ Major Professor	_____ Signature	_____ Date
_____ Co-Major or Minor Professor	_____ Signature	_____ Date
_____ Committee Member	_____ Signature	_____ Date
_____ Committee Member	_____ Signature	_____ Date
_____ Committee Member	_____ Signature	_____ Date
_____ Graduate Council Representative	_____ Signature	_____ Date

After signatures are gathered, please attach this form to your research proposal and submit to the Graduate Program Coordinator in the Department of Wood Science & Engineering in Richardson Hall 119.