

PhD Students: In-Field Research Proposal

PURPOSE: The purpose of the IFRP is to ensure that PhD candidates demonstrate that they:

- Have made satisfactory progress in their thesis research to date;
- Understand the broad context of their field and can identify the major issues, the main tools, and the current publications of the field;
- Can present a concise statement of the overall goal of their own current research;
- Can review in a coherent manner their specific results (to date);
- Can reason analytically at a fundamental level, demonstrating the ability to critically interpret their own results as well as the work of others working in their area;
- Can propose a well thought out series of experiments or calculations that can address a significant scientific problem.

REQUIREMENTS: The IFRP consists of written and oral components. The written component will be 2500-3000 words (figures and references separate) single spaced. The oral component will be 40-45 minutes. Students should reach out to committee members early in the semester to schedule a time to present. Both components of the IFRP have three parts:

- Aims and significance of the proposed research (ca. 500 words);
- Preliminary results and progress (ca. 1000-1500 words);
- Proposed research. The work that the student can realistically achieve during the time leading to the PhD (ca. 1000-1500 words).

The written proposal must be submitted by the student to the IFRP Committee at least two weeks prior to the presentation.

GRADING: The IFRP grades are High Pass (HP), Pass (P), Low Pass (LP), and Fail (F) and are assigned by the IFRP committee (the student's two thesis committee members and the research advisor). Grades of HP, P, and LP require no further action and will be used, along with the OFRP grade and the advice of the committee and advisor, to decide on the student's advancement to candidacy.

The letter grade for the course in which the IFRP is presented (Chemistry 612) will be based on the IFRP grade; HP and P correspond to an A grade with LP as a B grade. Students who fail the IFRP will receive a grade for the course of C+ or lower, depending upon the committee's evaluation.