

CPSY-Specific Dissertation Proposal Requirements

The proposal must meet the EDST / COE requirements. In addition, the proposal consists of the formatted, first 3 chapters of the dissertation, with appendices and references. Use APA 5th style (i.e., grammar, writing, reference/citation, etc.); see the section on theses (e.g., single space within a reference, double space between references). Proposal and dissertation are in faculty hands **two weeks** before scheduled meeting(s).

Chapter I

1. First, provide the broad, very general context that your study and its variables relate to – very short, 1-2 paragraphs. For *example*, career indecision may be relevant to college student development, romantic relationships may be related to meaning in life and college student development, bereavement may be important for some college students' anticipated or unanticipated life crises / transitions.
2. Second, still being relatively general, narrow to your variables and your study.
3. Centered Heading: *Importance of the Study*, what will this study contribute to the literature or to professional psychology
4. Centered Heading: *Statement of Purpose* or *Statement of the Problem*, a broad (vs. specific hypotheses) statement of what problem is addressed by the study.
5. Centered Heading: *Relevance to Counseling Psychology*, including CPSY themes / history, scientist-practitioner model, et cetera.

Chapter II

1. Paragraph telling the reader what to expect from the chapter. All major (e.g., centered, side) headings should be included in sentences to lead the reader through your extensive literature review.
2. This chapter demonstrates your expertise in the major variable(s) (e.g., career, attachment, death-bereavement)
3. Be certain the Rationale for your study is explicit
4. Conclude with the Research Questions / Hypotheses

Chapter III

1. Paragraph telling the reader what to expect from the chapter. All major (e.g., centered, side) headings (i.e., Participants, Measures, Procedure, etc.) should be included in sentences to lead the reader through your methodology.
2. Include *Data Analysis* – outline how you will analyze your data.
 - What preliminary analyses will you conduct to describe the sample (e.g., frequencies), the instruments' sample-specific psychometric information (e.g., internal consistency of the scores), and the relatedness of your variables (e.g., Pearson correlations).
 - State how you will examine the research questions and hypotheses. Organize by RQ or Hypothesis. For example, remind the reader of the hypothesis, state the statistic you will use, and provide a brief rationale for the choice.
 - For the dissertation, this section becomes Chapter IV, Results, with tables single-spaced within the text.
3. Limitations. Although this section will be moved to Chapter V, Discussion, you need to consider limitations in designing the study; so include them in Chapter III in the proposal.