

# APPROVAL OF PROSPECTUS

## Department of Biology

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Student's Name

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Date Approved

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Major Advisor

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Committee Member

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Committee Member

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Committee Member

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Committee Member

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Committee Member

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Graduate Coordinator

## Prospectus of Research

The student should compose 4-6 pages of relatively loose ideas. After their presentation to their advisory committee, they should receive feedback to help them narrow their interests and get them started on their research and/or NSF Grant (for PhD students). The grant, in turn, will be much more detailed and include preliminary data.

1. The prospectus is to be submitted to and approved in a meeting of the advisory committee before the end of the second semester for MS students and before the end of the third semester for PhD students.
2. If the research emphasis changes more than in a minor way after the prospectus is approved, the student must submit a new approved prospectus to the department as soon as possible and no later than one semester before graduation.
3. Generally, the main sections of the prospectus will include:
  - Title:** Must contain good "retrieval" words.
  - Introduction:** Must include justification and objectives.
  - Methods:** Must include experimental design, description of study site, etc.
  - Hypothesis:** Include unless inappropriate for descriptive or natural history studies.
  - Pertinent Literature:** Must include sufficient references to assure advisory committee that student is familiar with the proposed research area.
  - Anticipated Costs:** Must include information that will alert the advisory committee if any expensive equipment or supplies will be needed that are not already available, and how such expenditures are to be met.
4. Students should give one copy of the prospectus to each member of his/her committee and one copy with the original signature page attached to the front to the department graduate secretary.