



The Honors College Capstone Writing Your Proposal (NON-Engineering Group)

The proposal should be specific, clear and succinct: what the focus of the research will be, what research has already been conducted on the subject, why the topic is worthy of investigation, and what methodology will be used.

The proposal should be two to three pages (single-spaced), plus a preliminary bibliography.

On the proposal form, identify which of the options you will use to complete your Capstone. No matter which option you choose, your proposal should be written in full sentences (not bullet-points) and broken into sections—*do not write this in an essay format*. These section titles generally include, but are *not limited to*:

Statement of Problem or Research Question (a few sentences)

Research begins with the identification of a disciplinary problem needing a solution, an unanswered question, or a claim needing proof. Specify the problem, question, theme, or claim to be investigated. Your research may be a more in-depth investigation of a past class project, a specific issue you are interested in, or it may contribute to the ongoing research of your mentor. If this is the case, you will need to craft your problem statement to clarify the relevance of your contribution.

Summary of Peer-Reviewed Scholarship Relevant to your Research (a few paragraphs)

After reviewing the scholarly literature that has been published on your topic, briefly summarize what is already known about the problem, question, or claim to be investigated. If you will be replicating a previous study, specify how and why your research will be different. Google Scholar is a good resource for finding relevant peer-reviewed research.

Significance of the Research (a few paragraphs)

Indicate why your research is necessary and important (in other words, address the “so what?” question). Describe how it will contribute to the body of knowledge in your field or profession.

Methodology (a few paragraphs)

Your supervising professor will help you determine the best methodology for your project. This section should describe the manner in which the disciplinary problem, question, or claim to be investigated will be evaluated and why the method is appropriate for your research.

***If you have chosen the study abroad, service learning, or internship option, your methodology will have two parts. The first method will be the academic basis as stated above (this is the same type of methodology that is typically found in a thesis). The second part will be rooted in your work outside of the university setting. Specifically, how you plan to make use of the community knowledge or the workplace experience in your research. If human subjects are part of your research, you may be required to go through the Institutional Research Board (IRB).

Preliminary Bibliography

Attach a preliminary list of relevant scholarly sources as noted above in the *Summary of Peer-Reviewed Scholarship* section. Note: Your mentor will determine which citation style is most appropriate for your discipline; you are responsible for ensuring that all in-text and references section citations are correct. Owl Purdue is one resource that contains information on the most common reference styles (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/>).

For the Senior Project proposal, students **should have no less than five sources**; more if possible.

***Internships and service-learning projects should also include the location and name of the on-site supervisor.