

Wood Science Graduate Program Research Plan

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 committee prior to completing four terms. 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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After completing research plan, please complete the following steps:

1. Save your document as a PDF
2. Fill out this form with your name, degree pursuing, proposed title and your committee members names.
3. Attach to this form to your research plan after the last page
4. Submit to the Graduate Program Coordinator, Allison Culver at allison.culver@oregonstate.edu to route through DocuSign for approval from committee members. You will receive a copy after it's been signed.

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