UNDERGRADUATE THESIS PROPOSAL

Introduction

The Proposal is an important document preparatory to writing the thesis. It is often subject to several revisions, despite students having completed several versions and revisions prior to submitting the proposal to their supervisor. This is expected and not meant as discouragement. The Proposal becomes the skeleton of the thesis. Its architecture provides a pathway from start to finish, guiding the student through all the steps of the thesis to a successful conclusion. Much of what you write in your Proposal will reappear, with appropriate editing, in the thesis itself.

The Proposal must include the following and in the order given below. Attention to this structure for the Proposal assists in receiving clear feedback. Feedback from the supervisor and the Program Chair will help remove conceptual and practical pitfalls that may not be obvious to the student. Constructive criticism and critical analysis from both your supervisor and the Program Chair should be viewed as it is intended; as a means to strengthen and clarify your work.

The Undergraduate Thesis Proposal (approximately \textbf{4-5 pages} in length)

1. **Tentative Title of the Thesis**

2. **Area to be Studied**
   a) a general statement of the problem area
   b) brief discussion of key literature relating to the theological themes
   c) the Research Question
   d) student’s Personal Interest in the subject
   e) identification of methodology to be used

3. **Preliminary Literature Review**
   a) brief discussion of key literature relating to the subject matter of the study
   b) brief discussion of key literature relating to the chosen methodology(ies)
      demonstrating working knowledge of relevant resources

4. **Methodology**
   a) outline of planned steps in researching the question
   b) discussion of ethical issues involved and how the student plans to manage these issues

5. **Validations**
   a) description of how Trustworthiness will be built into the study throughout, or
   b) description of assessment process by knowledgeable users or public

6. **Tentative Chapter Outline** (see ‘sample outline of a Thesis’ document)

7. **Time Lines**
   A practical and achievable outline of student’s proposed pacing in the light of personal factors, logistics and College deadlines

8. **Bibliography**
   Be as comprehensive as possible at this stage, evidencing familiarity with available resources. Use proper bibliographical form.

9. **Due Date**
   Proposals may be submitted any time during the year, but \textbf{April 1} of the year prior to desired graduation year is recommended.