

M.S. GISci Thesis Prospectus Outline

- A. Cover page (1 page)
 - a. Title
 - b. A thesis proposal submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a Master of Science in Geographic Information Science
 - c. Approved By: Name, title and date lines. Three lines for the committee.
 - d. Date at the bottom

- B. Table of Contents (1 page)

- C. Introduction (3-5 pages)
 - a. What is the problem?
 - b. Why is it important?
 - i. Following NSF, emphasize the intellectual merit and
 - ii. Discuss the practical relevance and “broader impacts”
 - c. State the research hypothesis

- D. Literature Review (2-3 pages, can be section within the Introduction or separate section)
 - a. Full literature review
 - i. Review papers, tools, theses, books, etc.
 - b. The narrative should use peer-reviewed papers as the majority of the cited literature and should make the case for the problem, why it is important, and how your research will build upon past work.

- E. Paper 1 (1-2 pages)
 - a. Briefly describe what is going to be covered in the paper, including:
 - i. testable hypothesis
 - ii. ideas for methods to test the hypothesis
 - iii. anticipated results.

- F. Paper 2 (1-2 pages)
 - a. Briefly describe what is going to be covered in the paper, including:
 - i. testable hypothesis
 - ii. ideas for methods to test the hypothesis
 - iii. anticipated results.

- G. Proposed Course of Study Plan (1-2 pages)
 - a. List all classes you have taken and intend to take.
 - b. Indicate your 9 credits of 6000 level, 6 credits of thesis, and 30 total credits including required core classes.

Notes: About 20 pages total, double-spaced, 1 inch margins, single sided

Publication goal:

- 2 Papers about 15-20 pages each
- Students to disseminate research by posting code on web pages, presenting at conferences etc.
- All students should present at a department or college colloquium

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The thesis should follow a similar outline to the prospectus, including the following chapters:

Chapter 1: Introduction and Background (largely taken from your proposal, expanded as appropriate).

Chapter 2: Literature review ((largely taken from your proposal, expanded as appropriate).

*Note: Because the Introduction and Background are typically grounded in a literature review, Chapters 1 & 2 can be combined or separate.

Chapter 3: Paper 1 (self contained research paper, including it's own sections as required by the target journal)

Chapter 4: Paper 2 (self contained research paper, including it's own sections as required by the target journal)

Chapter 5: Conclusions (note that this is not necessarily a "results" section, since the results are contained in the two paper-chapters.)

Appendices: Methods, results, etc., that are not appropriate for previous chapters

Note: It is preferable that you submit one of your papers to a journal prior to your defense.