



SAN FRANCISCO
STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of
Anthropology

MA Thesis Proposal

All students in the Anthropology MA Program must file a formal accepted thesis proposal with their Thesis Chair before enrolling in ANTH 898 (*Master's Thesis*). ***Final accepted*** proposals are due **October 1** (for Spring enrollment in Anth 898) or **March 1** (for Fall enrollment in Anth 898). A ***final accepted*** proposal is one that has already undergone extensive review and revision by your entire committee. ***Do not*** hand in a first draft of your proposal at the above deadlines.

The proposal must conform to the guidelines on the following pages. Proposals should be double-spaced and printed in 12 point font. The entirety of the proposal must contain appropriate citation. The citation style should conform to [American Psychological Association \(APA\) style](#).



GUIDELINES FOR M.A. THESIS PROPOSALS

The following are the required components of your thesis proposal. Use the exact headings indicated here.

I. Abstract. This section is a brief **250** word statement summarizing your research proposal. It must include: (1) a clearly defined research question; (2) a declaration of why this research is relevant; (3) a statement on how you will examine this research question; and (4) a summary of your expected findings.

II. Introduction. This section introduces your proposed research.

A. What are your major research goals and why are they important?

B. What specific aspects of the general problem will you address?

C. What is the relevance of this inquiry to the broader discipline of anthropology? (Note: Stating that an area of inquiry has not been pursued before **is not** a valid argument of significance.)

D. *Specifically* state your hypothesis(-ses)/research question(s) and how you will test it (them).

III. Background. This section outlines the theoretical framework in which you undertake your research.

A. What information or data will you bring to bear on your research problem?

B. Briefly **review** (not just a list) the literature in terms of your line of inquiry.

C. *Discuss* this previous research and its impact on your research.

IV. Methods. This section describes your methodology for data collection and analysis.

A. In terms of your goals and the previous research undertaken, define your specific research questions or hypotheses. How are these questions relevant to your research problem?

B. What sort of data or observations will you use to answer these questions (you must be very specific)?

C. Outline your general research methodology for data collection.

V. Expected Findings. This brief section outlines your specific steps of research.

A. What do you expect to find as a result of your research?

B. What are some other possible findings that you do not expect?

C. Present any preliminary results or pilot studies that you have conducted.

VI. Schedule. This section tells what you have accomplished so far and gives a tentative schedule of the things you have yet to do. The University Graduate Division requires that you specify a two-semester schedule for thesis completion.

A. Discuss your schedule for field work/data collection. When will this happen?

B. Discuss your schedule for data analysis. When will this happen?

C. When will you write your thesis?

D. Include a brief budget if you feel it is appropriate.

VII. Committee. Include the names of your major advisor and second reader. One other committee member may be from outside the department if this is appropriate to your research.