



Rush University, College of Nursing

Advisement Guidelines PhD Advisement Process

Dissertation Proposal

A 15-page single-spaced dissertation proposal will be written. Any modifications to this format must be discussed and approved by the student's advisor.

- A. Problem Statement/Specific Aims
- B. Background and Significance
- C. Preliminary Studies
- D. Research Design and Methods
- E. Data Analysis
- F. Human Subjects Research
 - Protection of Human Subjects
 - Data Safety Monitoring Plan
- G. Literature Cited

In a private forum, the student defends the dissertation proposal to the dissertation committee members. The committee assesses the proposal in light of soundness of methodology and its relevance to adding to the body of nursing knowledge upon completion. The student is expected to answer questions about the proposed research design and methodology. If the proposal is acceptable, the Committee members sign the approval form. The signed form is given to the PhD Program Director and placed in the student's file.