

Instructions for Writing a Research Proposal

Following the outline below, provide the details of the proposal. Note: Alternative formats with similar length and detail that conform to standard predoctoral fellowship application formats may be substituted, but only with permission of the Advisory Committee, Department Chair, and Dean.

- (1) **Hypothesis and Specific Aims.** State the hypothesis to be tested and the specific aims of the research proposal.
- (2) **Background and Significance.** Describe briefly the background to the proposal, including relevant studies by other investigators. State concisely the importance of the research described in this proposal by relating the specific aims to broad, long-term research objectives in the field.
- (3) **Research Design and Methods.** Provide a description of:
 - Research design and the specific procedures to be used to accomplish the specific aims;
 - Tentative sequence for the investigation;
 - Statistical procedures by which the data will be analyzed; and
 - Any procedures, situations, or materials that may be hazardous to personnel and the precautions to be exercised.

Potential experimental difficulties should be discussed together with alternative approaches that could achieve the desired aims.

- (4) **Previous Work Done in this or Related Fields.** Describe briefly any work you have done that is pertinent to this project or demonstrates your ability to carry out the study plan.
- (5) **Personal Publications.** Cite your most important published and pending scientific publications, if any, in this or related work. Include all authors in the same order as they appear in the journals, as well as titles of articles and complete literature references.
- (6) Provide **Literature Citations** at the end of the research proposal for any published work referenced in the proposal. Each citation must include names of all authors, titles, book or journal, volume number, inclusive page numbers, and year of publication.
- (7) **Human Subjects/Vertebrate Animals.** Provide the rationale for the choice of any experimental animals or procedures involving human subjects. Also, summarize the gender and racial/ethnic composition of any human subject population.

SUBMIT RESEARCH PROPOSAL ON PLAIN 8 1/2" X 11" PAPER.