



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Second-Year Paper Proposal and Supervisor Form

Please attach the one to two page research proposal and submit it to the Graduate Program Administrator **by May 15th.**

Tentative Paper Title: _____

Student Name: _____ **Student Signature:** _____

Supervisor Name: _____ **Supervisor Signature:** _____

Paper Requirements: To complete this research paper requirement, students will write a research paper that contains, as a minimum, (1) a literature review, (2) an original research idea, and (3) a strategy for tackling it. The paper should demonstrate a student's understanding of the literatures covered in field courses and those related to their proposed dissertation topic.

In terms of scope, the paper will normally cover the following:

- ✓ The paper should address a key issue or research question in a specific field. This question can lay the groundwork for the student's dissertation research question and candidacy exam documents.
- ✓ The paper should demonstrate an understanding of the literature in the student's main fields of research and should demonstrate an understanding of the topics and methods germane to the research question.
- ✓ While students typically specialize in one primary field for their dissertations, some research questions cover more than one field. In such cases, the student will draw from more than one field and the paper should address the literature in the relevant fields. However, the paper need not cover material from all the field courses a student has taken.

- ✓ The paper can build on previously written papers submitted in their field courses, but cannot be a replication of these documents. The second-year paper is intended to be an independent document that contains a concise review of the literature related to one or more research questions in the field of specialization. However a literature review is not sufficient, the paper must propose an extension to the frontier of economic research. It can serve as a bridging document toward candidacy exam documents.
- ✓ The paper should be presented in a scholarly format meeting the standards of graduate study. On average, papers should be about 20 pages in length (excluding references, tables and figures).

Timeline: The research paper will be evaluated as follows.

- ✓ **By May 15th of the second year of the program**, students must have picked a supervisor (or interim supervisor) and developed a research topic resulting in a one or two page research proposal which must be attached to this form. The supervisor will provide research guidance in the development of the project over the next three months. Working together on a second year paper does not commit the student and supervisor to working together on the student's dissertation.
- ✓ **By August 10**, a research paper must be submitted to the graduate program administrator. A committee of three reviewers (including the supervisor) from the relevant fields will be asked by the graduate program director to review this paper with an emphasis on providing brief yet substantive feedback about the research direction and questions that the paper has highlighted. Each member of the committee writes a referee report on the paper in a manner consistent with the peer-review process at economics journals, and assigns a pass or fail grade. The reviewers will decide by majority rule if further revision of the paper is needed before the doctoral student passes the research paper requirement. The supervisor will supervise the revisions.
- ✓ Should a revision of the paper be required, the revised paper must be submitted **by the end of September in the third year of the program**. The committee either accepts the revised paper or returns the paper to the student for further revisions.
- ✓ The student must submit the final version of the paper **by the end of October** in the third year of the program.

Decision: The committee either accepts or rejects the paper. If the paper is rejected, the student must withdraw from the program. Students successfully completing the research paper will move to form their thesis committees and complete their candidacy examinations by the end of December in the third year of the program. Supervisors should notify the graduate program director when the paper has been accepted.