

Independent Research Proposal in Medicinal Chemistry (16:663:540) – 3 credits

The Independent Research Proposal serves as your comprehensive examination for admission to candidacy for the Ph.D. degree. As such you may not register for this until you have completed all of your coursework and successfully presented two seminars. Please register for this in the same semester in which you plan to defend your proposal. The purpose of this proposal is to determine your level of independent thought and creativity. It is therefore important to realize that this must be your own work and cannot be reviewed and revised by your advisor or anyone else. You are free to discuss possible topics with your advisor but from that point on this must be completed on your own.

The proposal that you develop cannot be directly related to your research project. It is to be written using the same format required for submission of grant proposals to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and is subject to the same page limitations (consult the current NIH website). You will not have a Preliminary Results section and it is not necessary to include a budget with the proposal. It should however, include a Specific Aims, Background and Significance, and Experimental Methods sections as well as a Reference section. Use the Journal of Medicinal Chemistry format for all references. Margins should be no wider than 1 inch on both sides and 0.5 inches top and bottom and the font size should be 11 point (Ariel font) and single spaced.

When completed, copies of the written document are to be submitted to each member of your dissertation committee. A meeting of your committee will then be scheduled in room 323A (allow at least two weeks for reading the proposal) at which time you will present your proposal orally (PowerPoint). Members of the committee may ask questions about anything in the proposal and also about your general level of preparation. If you are successful with your proposal you will be formally admitted into candidacy for the Ph.D. degree.