

Master of Professional Studies Proposal Questions

Students hoping to enroll in PRST 7998 are required to submit a proposal and have their project approved in advance. To prepare your proposal, please submit a separate document that answers the questions below. Submit those answers to the Instructor of Record by the appropriate deadline during the semester prior to when you hope to take PRST 7998. No student will be issued a permit for PRST 7998 without approval of their proposal. Proposals must be turned in by July 1st for the fall semester, December 1st for spring, and May 1st for summer term.

1. Identify the topic of your Professional Project and explain the purpose of the project. What are the research questions you are trying to answer or the problems you are trying to address through your project?
2. Explain the reasoning process by which you selected the topic. Explain in detail how this topic relates to your program of study. The Professional Project should be the logical culmination of what you studied in the MPS program.
3. All Professional Projects must have a formal, written, research component. State what the written research component of your project will be (e.g., research paper, policy analysis/recommendations, etc.) as well as your research methodology. If the project is not a traditional research paper, it must have an implementable initiative aligned with the student's course of study and profession. The emphasis of the project should be a community-based initiative that enhances the student's workplace or the community.
4. Provide a sample bibliography of at least 10 sources that is indicative of the resources you will use in your research. (You should plan to have at least 20 for your final draft.) The citations and bibliography of the Professional Project must follow the Publications Manual of the American Psychological Association.
5. Provide a provisional outline of your Professional Project that includes your anticipated goal or conclusion (one or two sentences).
6. If your project is done in conjunction with a field professional setting, have your field supervisor review and sign the proposal, indicating the location's permission for you to conduct this project at that professional setting. If you are interviewing individuals or completing a survey, you must state that you have read through the IRB rules and provide the protocol you will use to stay within them.
7. When emailing your proposal to the Instructor of Record, you must include the Certificate of Completion from your IRB/Cayuse training. (You can find that training at <http://www.memphis.edu/research/researchers/compliance/irb/index.php>)