

GUIDELINES FOR WRITING RESEARCH PROPOSALS
FOR MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE
IN CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The following guidelines are intended to provide the graduate student in Criminology AND Criminal Justice with a set of minimum expectations for the research proposal.

The expectations for the proposal are general. Specific details should be worked out in a meeting with the Research Proposal Committee's Chair.

The student should select a tentative committee and after discussing his ideas with the suggested committee, he should advise the department chair regarding the department members who are willing to serve and suggest a chair. The department chair, after consultation with the proposed committee, will officially designate the committee and its chair.

The student should use the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association as a guide for preparation of the proposal regarding such matters as references, quotations, etc.

I. INTRODUCTION

The introduction should give the reader a brief description of the proposed research to provide the reader with the research perspective. The introduction should not exceed two (2) pages.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

This section should demonstrate the student's library research abilities. The review of literature should include relevant citations in the area in which the student proposes to research. The discussion should commence with the theoretical perspective followed by relevant research. It is the purpose of this section to provide the logical background for the hypothesis(es). This section should be ten (10) to fifteen (15) pages.

III. HYPOTHESIS(ES)

The hypothesis(es) should be brief, clear and concise.

IV. RESEARCH DESIGN

The following areas should be included under this section:

1. A discussion of the setting where the research is to be conducted.
2. Definitions of the independent and dependent variables.
3. A discussion of the method in which the data will be collected.

This section should be three (3) to four (4) pages in length.

V. ANALYSIS OF DATA

This section should briefly discuss how the data is to be analyzed, and the student should indicate the appropriate statistical test.

VI. IMPLICATIONS OF PROPOSED RESEARCH

This section should briefly indicate why the research is important, i.e. how the findings will contribute to the research already conducted in the area as well as to practical application in the field.

VII. APPENDIX

This section should include any instrument(s) the student proposes to use.

VIII. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Self-explanatory.

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A Paper

Presented to

Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Indiana State University

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In Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the

Master of Science Degree

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by

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