

**GENERAL RESEARCH PLAN
for Doctoral Dissertation**

The General Research Plan (GRP) is used to describe the basic substance and form of the proposed research for the doctoral dissertation. The GRP should include the following (in ten or fewer pages):

Student Name

Title of Research Project

Date Submitted to GPC for Approval

Names and Signatures of Proposed Committee Members

Dissertation Committee Membership

The doctoral examination committee must have between five and seven members, including the chair, and all members must hold a doctoral-level degree. The chair of the committee and two additional members must be Regular members of the Graduate Faculty. At least one committee member must be from outside the program or department. The Department strongly recommends that one member be a biostatistician and that at least one member have expertise in epidemiologic methods. The committee chair must hold a primary appointment in DEPM.

“I approve of the attached general research plan for the above dissertation research project and agree to serve on the student’s Dissertation Advisory Committee.”

Committee Chair	Signature	Date
<i>Regular Member of Graduate Faculty</i>		

<i>Regular Member of Graduate Faculty</i>	Signature	Date
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<i>Regular Member of Graduate Faculty</i>	Signature	Date
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<i>Outside Member</i>	Signature	Date
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<i>Member</i>	Signature	Date
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<i>Member</i>	Signature	Date
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GENERAL RESEARCH PLAN for Doctoral Dissertation

STATEMENT OF RESEARCH QUESTION

- A. Hypotheses and Specific Aims
- B. Significance
- Summary of background literature
 - Preliminary data
 - Contribution of this project to expanding the understanding of the research topic

METHODS TO BE USED

- A. Description of study design
- B. Description of student's role in the study
- C. Source of data and specific methods of data collection
- D. Calculations to justify sample size
- E. Statistical methods proposed or planned

LIMITATIONS

- A. Statement of limitation of the study's design

FEASIBILITY

- A. Description of the feasibility of obtaining data and completing the study within a reasonable time frame.

Include a time line

REFERENCES

- A. References need not be extensive, but should review the major work in the specific area of research