



**UW-MADISON DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIOLOGY AND COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY**  
**DISSERTATION PROPOSAL HEARING FORM**

(See back of form for relevant section from Regulations Governing Graduate Study)

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Major Professor \_\_\_\_\_

Second and Third Members of Dissertation Advisory Committee:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Proposal Hearing \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal Title \_\_\_\_\_

- The proposal was
- Approved as attached.
  - Not approved at this time; another proposal hearing will be scheduled.
  - Approved, with the agreed upon revisions listed below.

Revisions agreed to by committee and student:

Timetable for completion of the dissertation:

Major Professor Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Form with approved proposal attached to: Chair's  
Assistant, Room 8128

Copy of form only to: Graduate Program Advisor, room 8127

**DISSERTATION PROPOSAL HEARING FORM**

From the Regulations Governing Graduate Study:

**F. DISSERTATION PROPOSAL AND DISSERTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

1. The doctorate is a research degree never conferred solely as a result of study and successful course work. It requires the ability to conduct an independent investigation as demonstrated in the preparation and presentation of a dissertation involving original research and creative scholarship. In consultation with his/her advisor, the student should work out a dissertation proposal specifying in some detail the nature of the problem, topic or hypothesis; the type and sources of information to be gathered and all the methods for gathering it; and the likely outcome or significance of the proposed research. In the course of developing a proposal it may be appropriate to choose a new major professor.
2. A “dissertation advisory committee,” which includes the major professor and at least two other Sociology or Community & Environmental Sociology faculty members should be formed when the dissertation proposal is ready for presentation and before substantial work has been done on the dissertation. The committee’s first responsibility is to meet with the student and approve, contingently approve, disapprove, or suggest revisions to the proposal. Results of this initial and any subsequent conferences between the student and the dissertation advisory committee are communicated by this form from the major professor to the department chair, with a copy of the dissertation proposal attached to the form. When the proposal is approved, the student has a research plan “contract” with the department.
3. Once a dissertation proposal has been approved by the advisory committee, the major professor has the bulk of the responsibility for assisting the student in his/her further research and writing. The other two members of the advisory committee continue to be available for consultation with the student and should be kept informed of his/her progress.
4. After the Ph.D. Final Oral Exam, the completed dissertation is approved by the five readers on the student’s committee (usually the same individuals as those comprising the dissertation advisory committee plus two other readers. (The dissertation must also be approved by the Graduate School for mechanical form and execution before it is submitted electronically.)