THESIS PROPOSAL
Department of Geoscience
University of Calgary

General Guidelines

When complete have your supervisor sign and date the cover page and submit to the Graduate Program Administrator in ES 118.

Thesis Based M.Sc.

1. A thesis proposal should be completed and provided to the Graduate Program administrator no later than six months after first registration (e.g. March 1 for September registrants, July 1 for January registrants).
2. The completed thesis proposal must be approved by the official supervisor (e.g., not interim supervisor) prior to submission. Approval is indicated by the supervisor’s signature on the title page.
3. Failure to complete and submit an approved thesis proposal by the deadline will result in the student being prevented from registering for continuing in the program until an approved thesis proposal is completed and submitted.

The purpose of the thesis proposal is to demonstrate that the author has defined, delimited and proposed a solution to a specific problem in geoscience.

The proposal should:

(a) give a short outline of the problem or hypothesis,
(b) explain the significance of the problem to earth science,
(c) contain a concise description of the data and/or techniques required to solve the problem or to constrain possible solutions to the problem, and
(d) contain a concise description of the plan for solving the problem.

The beneficiary of a good thesis proposal is the student. A well-defined problem will focus the research and provide a framework for collecting the required data.

The fact that a particular geologic feature (i.e.: volcano, reef, formation) has not been previously studied is not adequate justification for the proposal nor is it an adequate description of a problem for a proposal. When a proposal discusses an area or feature as a source of geological or geophysical data for solving a problem, then the reasons for selecting that particular area or feature instead of some other should be given.

The thesis proposal is not a vehicle to demonstrate mastery of the literature, nor should it provide an overly detailed review of previous work. Important as mastery of the literature is, there are other mechanisms for such a demonstration (i.e. meetings with supervisors and supervisory committees or GLGY/GOPH 701/703). Only references cited in the text of the proposals are to be listed in the References section of the proposal.

The quality of proposals will be used, along with other criteria, to determine which students merit GRS’s and other awards and as evidence of progress in the graduate program.
FORMAT

1. The Thesis Proposal must begin with a title page containing the following lines of information:

   M.Sc. Thesis Proposal
   Department of Geoscience, University of Calgary
   Title
   Author
   Supervisor
   Date
   Signature of Supervisor (M.Sc.)

2. No abstract is to be included.

3. The text of the proposal is typically on the order of five pages long.

4. A page discussing the budget for the proposal may be added after the text.

5. References cited in the text must be listed on a separate page following the text and budget page.

6. Figures and tables must appear on separate pages following the references, with captions on the same page.

7. The proposal must otherwise follow the thesis format used at The University of Calgary. This means:
   (a) it must be in near letter quality, with a minimum of 12 point standard type size,
   (b) line spacing of 1.5 is recommended,
   (c) it must have 1 inch margins at the top, bottom and right of each page,
   (d) it must have a 1 1/2 inch margin on the left of each page,
   (e) there must be no page number for the title page,
   (f) the text, budget page, references and figure/table pages must be numbered consecutively, with a page number (in Arabic numerals) appearing in the top right corner of each page (1 inch from the top and right), with the first page of text being page number 1.

For more details, see the “Thesis Format” section of the Faculty of Graduate Studies Calendar, and the “Thesis Guidelines” on the Graduate Studies’ web page

http://www.grad.ucalgary.ca/policy/policies_and_procedures.htm

Revised 25 January, 2011
L.R. Bentley