

Major Professor Certification of Preliminary Examination Topic

Students should fill in the following section and provide this form and their specific aims document to their major professor for the certification process.

Student _____

Proposal Title _____

Major Professor _____

The Preliminary Exam Proposal is based on the student's research project and will include one aim that the student is actively pursuing as well as one or two original aims that are a logical extension or addition to the student's current thesis project.

As part of the process for approving preliminary exam topics, major professors are asked to verify that their student's prelim proposal topic and specific aims or objectives fulfill the criteria listed below. After examining their specific aims document, please decide whether your student's aims satisfy these criteria and indicate your decision by checking the appropriate box.

Regardless of the topic, student proposals must satisfy all of the following criteria:

1. The independent aim(s) cannot overlap with objectives of current or past research projects that the student or anyone else has performed in their advisor's laboratory.
2. The independent aim must be different from those of research groups actively collaborating with the advisor's laboratory.
☐ The proposal topic and specific aims satisfy all the criteria above.
☐ The proposal topic and specific aims do not meet the criteria for an acceptable preliminary exam proposal. I have informed my student of my opinion.

If you decline to provide certification, then you should inform your student why you believe their specific aims are not appropriate, but please do not give the student specific advice on how to redesign their aims. This is the responsibility of the student and it is imperative that their proposal be original and of their own design.

To help the Preliminary Exam Committee evaluate the student's overall proposal and how they have acquired their background knowledge on the project please respond to the following.

- ☐ the student was provided with a funded or pending proposal prior to the development of their Specific Aims page.
- ☐ the student was NOT provided with a funded or pending proposal prior to the development of their Specific Aims page.

(Major Professor Signature)

Typing your name in the signature box above and/or typing your name at the end of an e-mail message used to transmit this form will serve as your signature.

(Date) (mm/dd/yyyy)

(Student Signature)

(Date) (mm/dd/yyyy)

Please send the completed form to Jenny Wilson via email (wils1135@purdue.edu).