

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 _____

Major Professor:

Students are not permitted to base their preliminary examination proposal on their thesis research projects. However, they may select a topic or research problem that is closely related to their area of research as long as the central issues addressed and specific aims or objectives of their proposal clearly differ from their current or past thesis projects in your lab.

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. The student should provide you with the specific aims for their preliminary exam proposal along with this form. After examining the specific aims document, please decide whether your student's aims or objectives satisfy these criteria and indicate your decision by checking the appropriate box. In making your decision, you may discuss the proposal with your student. However, you are not permitted to assist your student in developing their proposal or preparing for the preliminary examination.

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

1. No specific aim/objective can be identical to or overlap with objectives of current or past research projects that the student has performed in their advisor's laboratory.
2. No specific aim/objective can be identical to or overlap with any goal(s) of ongoing research projects in the advisors lab including those conducted by the advisor, post docs, graduate students, undergraduates, or technicians.
3. The specific aims/objectives 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 proposal and/or specific aims/objectives are not appropriate. However, please do not give the student specific advice on how to redesign their aims/objectives. This is the responsibility of the student and it is imperative that their proposal be original and of their own design.

(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).