

Candidate: _____ **Date of Examination:** _____

Proposed Dissertation Title: _____

Proposed Date of Completion: _____

Attach 7 single-spaced, typewritten pages (excluding references) with the following information:

1. **Specific Aims (no more than 1 page):** What are the specific aims of the dissertation research? Include the questions to be answered and the hypothesis to be tested.
2. **Research Strategy (no more than 6 pages):** Divided into Significance, Approach, and Preliminary Studies:
 - a. **Significance** - Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress in the field that the proposed project addresses. Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice in one or more broad fields. Describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field will be changed if the proposed aims are achieved.
 - b. **Approach** – (Most often this section is divided into the relevant aims, which are restated from the Specific Aims page). Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted as well as any resource sharing plans as appropriate. Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the aims. If the project is in the early stages of development, describe any strategy to establish feasibility, and address the management of any high-risk aspects of the proposed work.
 - c. **Preliminary Studies** – Preliminary or feasibility studies can generally be incorporated into the beginning, rationale section of each relevant aim.
3. **References (not included in 7 page limit):** List all literature references.

Please reference the BSGP Handbook, Section 9.6, "BSGP Format and Guidelines for the Doctoral Comprehensive Examination," for more specific guidance regarding the proposal format requirements.

We certify that the proposal was developed in accordance with the guidelines above and is approved:

_____	_____	_____	_____
<i>Chair Signature</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Student Signature</i>	<i>Date</i>

_____	_____	_____	_____
<i>Committee Member</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Committee Member</i>	<i>Date</i>

_____	_____	_____	_____
<i>Committee Member</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Committee Member</i>	<i>Date</i>

_____	_____	_____	_____
<i>Committee Member</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Committee Member</i>	<i>Date</i>

BSGP Program Director: I have reviewed and hereby approve the format of this Dissertation Proposal:

BSGP Program Director's Signature