PROSPECTUS INSTRUCTIONS

You will need to enter your thesis title and upload your prospectus on the Grad Progress website https://gradprogress.sim.byu.edu/ so that you can request approval from your committee. You will want to upload a copy even if your committee is using an external tool to review it. If you don't, there won't be a copy on file.

Respond to each of the sections that apply to your proposed research. You may skip the ones that don't apply, but you must provide justification why they don't. Your committee will need to agree. It is recommended that the Prospectus be at least 3 pages long.

I. NATURE OF THE PROBLEM

Give a concise statement of the problem your research addresses, using language that is understandable to a non-expert in the field. Identify the factors that have contributed to the problem and why the problem merits attention. This section must include a 1-sentence Problem Statement.

II. PURPOSE OF THE RESEARCH

Give a single clear statement of the purpose of the proposed study. Keep the language simple and direct. A sentence of the form "The purpose of this research is . . ." would be appropriate.

III. REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

What specific questions do you hope to answer in your literature review, keeping in mind that industry contacts may also need to be made? At the proposal stage you are not expected to have done an extensive review, but you are expected to have done enough reviewing to have some knowledge of the issues that need to be investigated and previous research in the area. A minimum of three references is expected for the Prospectus.

IV. RESEARCH QUESTIONS, HYPOTHESES OR OBJECTIVES

Specifically, what questions will the study attempt to answer or what hypotheses will be tested? Questions are normally phrased in straightforward conversational form. Hypotheses may be stated in either the null or the alternative form. If you choose research objectives, the exact statements of the objectives should be worked out with your advisor.

V. METHODOLOGY OF THE RESEARCH

Explain exactly, but briefly, how you propose to answer the questions or test hypotheses. Include such items as: (1) What variables will be involved? (2) What tests will be conducted? (3) What instrumentation will be used? (4) How will relevant data be collected? (5) What will the time schedule be?

VI. COST OF THE RESEARCH

What will the study cost and what is the proposed source of funding? Has a proposed budget been developed? If so, what does it include?