

## Department of Earth Sciences Research Proposal Format Guidelines

Students will complete and submit a 10-15 page of text research proposal. This proposal will ultimately be expanded and become a working draft of your final paper the following semester. The literature review will serve as a basis for the Introduction and Materials and Methods sections and should be readily adaptable for the final project. This proposal should include the following elements:

1. A clear and concise summary
2. A statement of the Intellectual Merit for the proposed research (Why does this research need to be done? What are the broad-scale research questions that are driving the research?)
3. A clearly stated hypothesis and predictions based on the hypothesis
4. An Introduction to the research topic that includes a broad-based literature review with proper references (using GSA format)
5. Suggested field location (s), sample collection strategies, materials needed, and a brief description of possible Analytical Methods to be used (as applicable)
6. Preliminary Results (if applicable)
7. Well-annotated figures including location maps, images of any proposed field sites, diagrams summarizing previous data, etc.
8. A proposed timeline for Fall and (if appropriate, summer as well) and budget justification (not to exceed \$500 without a secondary application to the Earth Sciences department chair)

The proposal should have the following components with the headings listed below:

1. Cover page with the title of the proposed project and student name
2. A Project Summary (less than 250 words)
3. The Hypothesis Statement and Predictions
4. Introduction
5. Methods and Materials
6. Preliminary Results
7. Project Timeline for Fall (and if appropriate, summer as well)
8. Project Budget