11. Defend Proposal

What does the Proposal Defense entail?

At the proposal defense of a dissertation, the full committee interacts with the candidate to finalize all phases of the document that precede data collection. Major changes may occur as a result of the defense of the proposal that require additional revisions and additional meetings.

What happens after the Proposal Defense?

Once the document has been given approval by the supervisory committee, final approval by IRB must be obtained. With the approvals of the supervisory committee and IRB, the document can be submitted to the Office of Thesis and Dissertation Services (OTDS). There will be a review to make sure that all requirements have been met (candidacy achieved, appropriate IRB approval obtained, and use of appropriate research methodology). Thus, OTDS is the final check concerning research ethics and methodology.

When can I begin collecting data?

You may not begin collecting data until you receive proposal approval from OTDS; though your committee may have approved your proposal (and IRB as well), you must receive an email of approval from OTDS before collecting data. Any data collected prior to OTDS approval will be disallowed and the collection of new data will be required.