

Outline for Ph.D. Dissertation and M.S. Plan A Thesis Proposals

Use this outline for your M.S. Plan A thesis or Ph. D. dissertation proposal. While you may include other chapters, these are required.

(Assuming that your research proceeds according to plan, adding a results section to these chapters should meet the requirements for a thesis/dissertation. Use the thesis/dissertation template found on the MAE website for the proposal.)

Abstract: Include a single paragraph abstract, which should focus on the proposal's most salient points.

- I. Introduction:** Do the following in this section.
 - Place your work in context by informing the reader of the field's state-of-the-art and the motivation for the research.
 - Include the Literature Survey: 1) review the relevant theoretical or empirical works that provide a broad background; 2) demonstrate the link between your study and the body of knowledge in which the study is grounded; and 3) format references based on either ASME or AIAA journal standards.
 - Include a hypothesis statement if one is used.
 - End with an overview of the remainder of the document.
- II. Objectives:** State clearly and concisely (in bullet format) what you propose to accomplish. When approved by the committee, the set of objectives becomes the agreement for what constitutes completion of the thesis/dissertation. This chapter should be a single page.
- III. Approach or Plan to Meet The Objectives:** Describe how, where, and when each of the objectives will be accomplished.
- IV. Bibliography**