

Written Research Proposal **Due dates on Course Schedule**

Please prepare a written proposal describing your work for the year. Your proposal should be no more than **5 pages** in length (Times New Roman 12-pt font, 0.6" margins, single-spaced), and must be fully referenced (*the 5 page limit does not include references*). Use the *ACS or Biochemistry* format for in-text references and for full citations in the "Literature Cited" section.

The details of the format are flexible. You and your mentor should construct the proposal so that it makes the most convincing statement of your plans. However, your proposal should contain the parts listed below; several sample proposals are provided for your reference under the "Lecture Supplements" section of the course webpage. These examples are actual proposals from WU chemistry faculty written to specific agencies for specific purposes. While they will contain all the parts listed below, they may have different citation formatting and may also contain information not relevant to your proposal.

Title/Author/Term

Student and Mentor names, Class, Term

Background and Significance

Describe background material necessary to understand your specific aims – explain what you are trying to do and why. Why is this work interesting or significant, and how will it help achieve an "unmet need"? Your literature review should be very helpful in preparing this section.

Specific Aims

Include a brief statement of the overall goal of your proposal, followed by bullet points describing the specific goals to be accomplished in this project – be detailed!

Preliminary Studies

Describe work that you and/or your mentor (or other students) have already done toward these Specific Aims.

Research Design and Methods

Describe how you will accomplish your specific aims. Give as much information as possible on specific types of experiments, the expected outcomes of these experiments, and how the outcomes will be measured. Include any instrumentation to be used.

Project Timeline

Describe your goals for when each Specific Aim will be accomplished. What would you like to have completed by the end of the first semester? When would you like to have all laboratory work completed?

References

List your references in the order they are cited in the text. Use the *ACS or Biochemistry* format, as you did in your Literature Summaries assignment.