A Guide to Writing Your MLAS Research Project Proposal

Completion of a research project proposal and thesis (see page 11) is an essential component of the master’s program. The focus of the research would allow students to 1) integrate the principles of laboratory animal science that they learned in core courses and, 2) to demonstrate knowledge and advanced training in a focused area related to laboratory animal science. The MLAS student’s research project should consist of hypothesis-driven, original research that advances the field, develops or refines an animal model or contributes new knowledge regarding basic understanding of research animal husbandry, biology, physiology, behavior or well-being.

As an MLAS graduate student, you will work with your research mentor to prepare a preliminary research proposal. The proposal will be reviewed at the first MLAS FAC meeting that typically occurs at the end of the student’s first quarter of enrollment.

The research proposal should be written as a Word document, in 11 or 12 pt. font, Times New Roman (1 inch margins) and should not be longer than 5 pages. The proposal should contain the following:

1. Title, with your name and your advisor’s name, date
2. Background and significance
3. Objectives: list your specific aims
4. Methods (how will you achieve your specific aims, include statistical analysis)
5. Budget
6. Proposed Timeline to Completion (describe the project milestones and which quarters you will complete them)
7. Bibliography

Remember, this will be a draft proposal. It will likely evolve and be revised after you meet with the FAC and as you progress through your program.

Typically, you will need your research mentor’s help and guidance with your proposal. Therefore, plan to have numerous meetings with your research mentor prior to submitting the Research Proposal to the MLAS FAC.

If your research mentor is unavailable, contact Dr. Green or Steve Choy, who can provide additional formatting information.