

Thesis Proposal Approval Form

Name:	SMC:	Home Phone:	E-mail:
A. Curriculum no. <input type="checkbox"/> 590, <input type="checkbox"/> 591, <input type="checkbox"/> 525, <input type="checkbox"/> 533, <input type="checkbox"/> (other)	B. Degree:	C. Date of graduation:	
D. Tentative Thesis Title:			
E. Thesis Advisor:			
F. Thesis Co-advisor:		Thesis Second Reader:	
G. Anticipated Funding Requirements (If any):		Funding Provided by:	
H. Anticipated Classification Level:			
I. Human Subjects Research Involved: Read Section "R" to identify whether your thesis project requires IRB approval. If so, approval must be secured BEFORE starting research. Project requires IRB approval: <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N			
J. Plagiarism/Cheating ➤ The student needs to be aware of the fact that the thesis represents the work of the author alone. It is the student responsibility to insure that material taken from other sources is acknowledged appropriately. ➤ Specific details regarding such acknowledgements may be found in the ECE OnLine student handbook at: http://www.nps.edu/ece/eceHandbook/commo n/cheating.pdf ➤ By turning in this thesis approval form, the student acknowledges having read, understood and agreed to follow the guidelines specified in the above online document.		K. Thesis Extensions: (please, read) ➤ A Student who detaches from NPS before completing his/her thesis for the master's degree will be granted an extension of one year upon filling out the thesis extension request form. ➤ A student may apply for up to two additional one-year thesis extensions. Requests for these extensions should include a progress report, endorsement from the thesis advisor and any other relevant information. Students are reminded that requests for 3 rd thesis extension will be granted only if the student has made SIGNIFICANT progress towards completion of the thesis, as certified by their thesis advisor. ➤ The student bears full responsibility for maintaining the viability of his/her candidacy. If a student's extension expires, his candidacy has lapsed and the degree cannot be awarded at any time in the future. ➤ Students <u>must</u> complete their thesis requirements <u>within 3 years of the date of detachment from the School</u>	
Please answer items `L through `Q (shown next page) on separate sheets.			

Advisory committee	Approve (check box <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>)		Signature	Date
	Yes	No		
Advisor				
Co-advisor/2 nd reader				
Academic Associate				
Department Chair:				
Noted/Date:			Program Officer:	

L. Research Questions

Identify the primary research question and subsidiary research questions. The primary research questions should be broad enough that it covers the entire spectrum of the research activity. Subsidiary research questions subdivide the primary research question into manageable research segments. This should be a very explicit statement of the questions the research will seek to answer. While the questions may be redefined later as the research progresses, the initial objective should be made very specific.

M. Discussion of Topic

Describe the main thrust of the study, what areas will be specifically investigated and what areas will be excluded; put boundaries around the study; identify what the study will be (e.g., a computer simulation, an experiment, an electronic design and implementation, a system study); discuss any limitations of the study.

N. Tentative Chapter Outline

Identify tentative chapter headings and provide brief discussion of chapter content. (Note: This can change).

O. Benefit of Study

State of the contribution expected from your research efforts, what individuals/ organizations will use the results of your thesis and what problems/issues you feel will be addressed/resolved.

P. Preliminary Bibliography

Provide a listing of representative materials consulted during preliminary literature search. This should include references to the problem or issue to be studied, prior thesis work, literature references, or other sources of information. The final bibliography will probably be much more extensive.

Q. Milestones

This is a tentative list of target dates for completion of the successive stages of the project. You will not be held strictly to this schedule; it is a means of conveying to others when you expect to complete major milestones of the study. Give the dates during which of the following activities will be accomplished:

1. Literature Review
2. Construct Research Approach
3. Conduct Research/Travel
3. Analyze Data
4. Draft Thesis
5. Final Thesis Submission/Signature

R. Human Subject Research

For an activity to be considered human subjects research it must be all of the following:

- (i) a systematic investigation
- (ii) designed to develop or contribute to generalize knowledge
- (iii) involve human subjects or their personally identifiable information

Please answer the following questions about the attached research proposal.

Is the activity part of a systematic investigation? For example: Is it part of a planned and structured research investigation? Or, Are you testing a hypothesis or theory?	Yes	No
Is the information you are gathering designed to contribute to generalize knowledge? For example: Is it possible that the knowledge that you develop could be applied to another domain or another population? Is it possible that another researcher be interested advancing your research? Would another researcher be interested in replicating your study with another population?	Yes	No
a) Does this activity involve intervention or interaction with individuals? For example: Does it involve surveys, interviews, online interaction, experiments, audio/video recordings, or equipment testing involving subjects <i>or</i> b) Is the data you are gathering individually identifiable? For example, can the identity of the subjects be readily ascertained by the investigator?	Yes	No

In order for a project to be considered human subjects research, question 1 *and* 2 *and* at least one part of question 3 must be answered in the affirmative, in which case it may require review and approval by the IRB before the research may commence. If you think the attached protocol may involve human subjects research or if there is any doubt about whether it involves human subjects research please contact the IRB Chair Dr. Angela O'Dea alodea@nps.edu or the IRB Administrator Ms. Rikki Panis rpanisa@nps.edu, or Email the IRB Mailbox at: irb@nps.edu. For more information about the IRB visit the IRB website at: <http://www.nps.edu/Research/IRB.htm>.