

Final MSMHA Capstone Proposal

Title: *Be descriptive*

Name: *Your Name*

Mentor: *Who will mentor this project*

Project Site: *Where the project will be performed*

Personal Statement

A brief description of your personal interest in this project and your expected personal outcomes from completing this project (i.e. what do you personally hope to achieve with this project). Describe the overall scientific/academic value your project will have and how such a project pertains to your future goals. Do not include any personal narrative outside of this paragraph. *One paragraph.*

Objective

A brief summary of your proposal, including the major question(s) to be addressed, goals to be achieved and/or contributions to be made to the anatomical sciences by this project. This objective sets the stage for the rest of the proposal. *One paragraph.*

Background and Rationale

Describe the background details relevant to your project. This could include a description of the anatomy involved and / or a comparison of the methodology currently used to examine the anatomy in question. Figures are encouraged. Make certain to link the background to the capstone project goal you will achieve and explain the rationale behind your goals or driving question(s): i.e. why is the question/project worth exploring? Include citations as appropriate when discussing the work of others. *Two or more paragraphs.*

Specific Aims

Outline the overall aims of the project. What do you propose to do? Your specific aims should be designed to provide the rationale of your project. *Two to three sentences.*

Aim 1

State and describe in more detail the first aim. *One paragraph.*

Aim 2

State and describe in more detail the second aim. *One paragraph.*

Each aim can be broken down to include sub-aims.

Project Approach

Describe the methodology that you will use to answer your specific aims. Figures are encouraged. If funds and/or special equipment are required, be sure to address the availability

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and sources of financial and technical support. Include citations as appropriate when discussing the work of others. *Two or more paragraphs*

Timeline

Outline the dates when you expect each aim (and sub-aim) to be accomplished. Include in your timeline a breakdown of steps needed for each aim (e.g., obtain samples, exploring software options, training for a method, analysis, writing the report, etc.). Figures and tables are encouraged. Be aware that the final presentation and report of your Capstone project must occur approximately two weeks prior to the final exam week each semester. Refer to the graduate school academic calendar and consult with your academic advisor to help you determine an accurate and realistic timeline

Budget

Detail the estimated cost, including any equipment or software, that will be needed to complete the proposed project. Indicate whether your mentor has the funds to cover these costs.

Literature Cited

Use the Anatomical Sciences Education format. For more details, refer to the Anatomical Sciences Education Format section below.

Formatting

The preliminary proposal should be formatted as follows:

- Typed, single-spaced, with one-inch margins on all sides.
- Six to eight pages
- 11 or 12 point font or less
- Arial, Helvetica, or Times font.
- The length of a paragraph should be less than one-half page.

Style

Style is equally as important as content. It is critical to write clearly and concisely and pay **close** attention to grammar and spelling. Avoid colloquialisms and slang. Avoid careless mistakes. The proposal should be well-written and **proofread carefully**. Poorly written proposals will be returned for revision.

Several websites offer useful tips on grammar. For example, the Grammar girl blog: <http://www.quickanddirtytips.com/grammar-girl>

Tone

The proposal should be written in a serious and matter-of-fact tone, such as you can find in a peer-reviewed journal article. Refrain from stating personal opinions or any personal narrative outside of the personal statement. Please refer to the The Science of Scientific Writing article we have provide for your reference.