



Preparing for Research Proposal Oral Defense

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TIPS FOR...
YOUR PRESENTATIONS



Every PhD student in our department needs to pass the research proposal defense. During the oral defense, you are required to present your research proposal and answer related questions proposed by the committees. These are some tips for you about how to prepare for it.

1. Communicate with your supervisor. You need to communicate with your supervisor about inviting the committees and details about your oral defense arrangements, such as whether you need to make slides for your research proposal, the date and time length for your proposal presentation for oral defense, and the language you should use. If possible, you can have a meeting with your supervisor before your oral defense to rehearse the presentation and ask your supervisor for any tips or suggestions.
2. Emphasize your research design. You can relatively, spend less time introducing the research background and previous literature. Meanwhile, you need to focus more on the research gaps, your research questions, research significance, and the methodology. Besides, if you do qualitative research, you need to address the feasibility of your research.
3. Rehearse your proposal presentation before your oral defense. You need to make your presentation not exceed the maximum time length required by your supervisor. Besides, doing rehearsal will effectively reduce your anxiety. You can make several rehearsals instead of just practicing once.

Juniors' Concerns

Seniors' Response



1. How to balance the time allocated to courses and research effectively as Ph.D. students?

My supervisor suggested before that I align the projects I have for the courses with my Ph.D. project. By doing this, I am doing both a review of related literature for my dissertation and honing my data analysis skills under different mentors.

Another way that I found helpful was to plan backward. The program prescribes that we fulfill the candidacy requirements on or before the end of our second year. There is a general timeline for when we will be taking our candidacy examinations and presenting our research proposal. Mark these dates and list all the activities that you need to do to be able to accomplish these. Schedule accordingly.

2. What if I did not do well in the required courses for the program?

- There is a minimum required grade for you to move forward in the program. If you feel that your performance is lacking, it is best to take it up with the professor to see if there is anything you can do to improve. If that fails, then you are given another chance to meet the expectations.
- If you are really worried about the final grades, the best strategy is to communicate with the instructor during office hours. You can acquire a reasonable expectation and a feasible plan for the rest of the semester. Scaring yourself by your own imagination is the worst thing to do.

[See Full Article](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

✓ Job Ads

- Principal/ Senior Lecturers/Associate Professors, Lecturers/Assistant Professors, Wenzhou-Kean University (WKU), Wenzhou, China. **Deadline for Applications: Dec. 31, 2022** [\[See the ad\]](#)
- Senior Research Fellow/Research Fellow/Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Social Lab, National University of Singapore, Singapore. **Deadline for Applications: Nov. 19, 2022** [\[See the ad\]](#)
- Faculty Position and Postdoc Fellowship in Social Sciences at SUSTech, Southern University of Science and Technology, Shenzhen, China. **Deadline for Applications: Nov. 22, 2022.** [\[See the ad\]](#)