Dissertation Prospectus Checklist

A thesis committee’s main focus is on examining the candidate’s progress towards a scientifically-sound and substantial dissertation. Completion of this checklist at the time of the dissertation prospectus (also referred to as a “thesis proposal”) helps ensure that these goals are met.

The completed checklist is to be signed by the committee members and returned to the Graduate Program Office (LGRT 1131).

1. The thesis committee will check off that the following items were discussed and that recommendations were provided to the Ph.D. candidate:

   Candidate’s professional aspirations
   Recommendations (e.g. make an IDP, go to career fairs, conferences in the subject)

   Knowledge of literature in the subject
   Recommendations (e.g. suggest literature, go to journal clubs, seminars)

   Broader knowledge of physics
   Recommendations (e.g. suggest literature, colloquium, courses)

   Mathematical/computational/experimental skills (as appropriate)
   Recommendations (e.g. machine shop course, math/CS course - grad or undergrad)

   Speaking skills
   Recommendations (e.g. ESL course, practice talks within group or with other grads, TA)

   Writing skills
   Recommendations (e.g. writing course, detailed edit of thesis, get a writing mentor)
2. A member of the thesis committee other than the research supervisor (who is usually also the Chair of the committee) should provide here a summary of the progress towards a thesis, based on achievements to date and on plans for the future. One or two paragraphs (not exceeding one page) is ideal.