

# Thesis Proposal for LTS Students

*Include in your thesis proposal the following information. Please remember that the thesis needs to be approved by your proposed faculty thesis supervisor and your advisor before it comes to the Academic Guidance Committee for approval. Once the proposal has been approved by the Academic Guidance Committee, any major changes to the topic that are later proposed should be brought to the attention of the Academic Guidance Committee as soon as possible.*

1. **Student's name:**
2. **Student's Advisor:**
3. **Proposed Faculty Supervisor for this thesis:**
4. **Thesis Statement:** What is the question that you intend to investigate and what are your initial hunches about where the question might lead? (1 paragraph)
5. **Thesis Justification:** Why does this question matter *to you*? Why does this question matter generally? What contribution will your investigation make to your own growth and to the church/world? (1 page)
6. **State of the Question:** From a preliminary survey of the field you are investigating, who are some of the key authors and what (in general) appear to be some of the major positions that they are taking? *Include a preliminary bibliography* of primary and secondary sources that you have so far identified, and which you plan to look at in your research. (3 pages in total)
7. **Method:** Describe the proposed methodology that you will use for this thesis. What sort of data will you need to gather (eg. theological works, manuscripts, interviews or other field data, etc)? How will you go about gathering the data that you need? What methods will you use to analyze and synthesize the data (eg. feminist theological analysis, biblical text criticism, family systems theory, etc)? How will you draw meaning for pastoral/theological theory and practice out of that analysis? (1-2 pages).
8. **Outline:** Recognizing that the outline may be adjusted with the thesis advisor's permission as research indicates the need, what is your present understanding of how you will organize and present the results of your research? (1 page)
9. **Timeline:** Indicate the dates by which you intend to have your base research done, your first chapter completed, your first draft completed, your final draft, and readiness for defense. After the final draft is submitted, the thesis advisor needs time to read and approve the final draft (and there may be more work to be done before it can be approved). Then readers need about three weeks to read before the defense can take place. The defense should be completed by the beginning of April in the senior year to leave time for corrections