# RESEARCH PROPOSAL

A structured overview from aims to budget for a research project

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# RESEARCH PROPOSAL TITLE

**Study title & focus**

Proposed research title and one-sentence focus of the study

**Candidate and role**

Candidate/PI name, role, and department affiliation

**Institution and hosting unit**

Institutional affiliation and unit hosting the research

**Contact details**

Advisory committee or grant office contact details (as applicable)

**Submission type**

Submission type: institutional grant or dissertation committee review

# PROBLEM STATEMENT AND SIGNIFICANCE

**Literature gap**

What is missing, inconsistent, or under-tested in prior work

**Intellectual merit**

How the study advances theory, method, or empirical understanding

**Broader impacts**

Expected benefits for communities, policy, practice, or future research

**Funding timing**

Why current timing and institutional support are critical

**Conceptual framing**

How the problem connects to measurable outcomes and stakeholders

# THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND LITERATURE

**Foundations and constructs**

Primary theoretical foundation(s) and key constructs guide the study

**Constructs to variables**

Model-to-measure mapping shows which constructs become variables, measures, or indicators

**Evidence gaps**

Prior evidence synthesis summarizes what prior studies show and where effect sizes or mechanisms remain unclear

**Framework fit**

Justification of approach explains why the chosen framework best supports the study's hypotheses

**Conceptual relationships**

Conceptual diagram description outlines relationships among predictors, mediators/moderators, and outcomes

# SPECIFIC AIMS AND TESTABLE HYPOTHESES

**Aim 1**

Primary objective, target population/data source, and expected measurable outcome

**Hypothesis 1**

Directional or null hypothesis tied to Aim 1 and the theoretical mechanism

**Aim 2**

Secondary objective and how it extends or validates Aim 1 results

**Hypothesis 2**

Testable statement with operational variables and predicted direction

**Aim 3**

Integrative objective such as mediation/moderation, robustness, or translational output

# RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

01

**Data collection protocol**

Procedures, instruments, training, and quality assurance checks for data collection

02

**Sampling strategy**

Inclusion/exclusion criteria, recruitment or sampling frame, and representativeness plan

03

**Study controls**

Comparison groups, randomization logic, and blinding where feasible

04

**Ethics and compliance**

Consent, confidentiality, data management, and risk mitigation steps

# DATA ANALYSIS AND STATISTICAL PLAN

**Model types**

Model types (e.g., regression, mixed models, SEM) aligned to each hypothesis

**Statistical power**

Planned effect sizes, variance assumptions, and justification for sample adequacy

**Assumption checks**

Diagnostics for normality, multicollinearity, heteroskedasticity, and model fit

**Validation procedures**

Internal validation, cross-validation, sensitivity analyses, and robustness tests

**Missing data & bias**

Handling plan (imputation or deletion rules) and confounding control strategy

# PROJECT TIMELINE AND FEASIBILITY

**Ethics and approvals**

IRB/ethics submission, review cycles, and readiness to begin data collection

**Recruitment and data collection**

Instrument piloting, rollout, monitoring, and interim QA milestones

**Analysis and reporting**

Preliminary analyses, final modeling, and manuscript/dissertation drafting milestones

**Dissemination**

Conference presentations, stakeholder briefings, and publication submission targets

# BUDGET JUSTIFICATION AND RESOURCES

| Budget Line | Requested Amount | Justification Link |
|---|---|---|
| Equipment | TBD | Instruments required for measurement and data integrity |
| Personnel | TBD | Effort for recruitment, data collection, analysis, and project oversight |
| Fieldwork/Travel | TBD | Site visits, participant engagement, and logistics for data capture |
| Supplies and Materials | TBD | Consumables, printing, and materials supporting protocols |
| Data/Software | TBD | Licenses or compute resources for analytics and secure storage |
| Indirect Costs | TBD | Institutional support for facilities and administrative services |