

Dissertation Proposal for ASR PhD Students

There are two dissertation proposal forms for PhD students in Anthropology and Sociology of Religion (ASR). One (I.) is submitted to the Dean of Students and read by the Committee on Degrees. The other (II.) is submitted to your dissertation committee members ahead of the dissertation proposal colloquium. For more details on the colloquium, please consult <https://divinity.uchicago.edu/doctoral-program-phd-2>

I. The proposal submitted to the Dean of Students and read by the Committee on Degrees is a 7 page description of your project. It should include the following:

- A clear statement of the topic of study
- An explanation of the topic's importance
- A survey of existing treatments and views, the scholarly context
- Your questions and methodology
- A summary of your expected contribution to scholarship
- A proposed chapter outline
- A working bibliography

The Committee on Degrees does not evaluate the scholarly merits of your proposal, only its clarity as stated and its feasibility in terms of course-and-comps fit and time to completion. The Committee on Degrees meets four times per year, twice in the Fall, and once each in the Winter and Spring. To be read and evaluated by the Committee in a particular meeting, the proposal must be submitted to the Dean of Students at least **ten days** prior to that meeting. Check with the Dean of Students regarding those dates. The proposal is submitted together with the proper form and cover letter after a successful proposal defense/colloquium.

II. The proposal submitted to the dissertation committee is a separate, more detailed version of the proposal submitted to the Committee on Degrees. The proposal offers justification that a topic is worthy of study and that you are able to make a contribution to relevant areas of scholarship. Allow members of the committee **three-four weeks** to read your proposal before the colloquium. You are strongly advised to submit early drafts to your advisor for feedback and to be in contact with your committee members regarding your bibliography, your analysis of materials read, and your ideas.