

## URS Thesis Proposal Template

Refer to the **Application Instructions & Examples Guide** for content requirements.

### Section 1: Contact Information

#### Section 1.1: Student Applicant

Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
<i>First Name</i>	<i>Middle Name</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>9-digit UIN</i>
Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
<i>Texas A&amp;M Email Address</i>	<i>Personal/Permanent Email Address</i>	<i>College</i>	<i>Major</i>

#### Section 1.2: Application Type

Individual Thesis   
  Team Thesis (Up to 5 Members)   
 Primary Contact Name: Click here to enter text.

#### IF TEAM, ENTER CO-APPLICANTS

Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
<i>First Name</i>	<i>Middle Name</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>9-digit UIN</i>
Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
<i>First Name</i>	<i>Middle Name</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>9-digit UIN</i>
Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
<i>First Name</i>	<i>Middle Name</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>9-digit UIN</i>
Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
<i>First Name</i>	<i>Middle Name</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>9-digit UIN</i>



# Undergraduate Research Scholars

2026-2027 Proposal Template – For Planning Only

## Section 1.3: Faculty Advisor(s)

### PRIMARY ADVISOR:

Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>First Name (and Middle Initial)</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Email Address</i>

### SECONDARY ADVISOR (IF APPLICABLE):

Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>First Name (and Middle Initial)</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Email Address</i>

### TERTIARY ADVISOR (IF APPLICABLE):

Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>First Name (and Middle Initial)</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Email Address</i>

### NON-FACULTY MENTORS (IF APPLICABLE):

Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>First Name (and Middle Initial)</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Email Address</i>

Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>First Name (and Middle Initial)</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Email Address</i>

Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>First Name (and Middle Initial)</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Email Address</i>

## Section 2: Proposal

### PROPOSAL TITLE:

Click or tap here to enter Proposal Title.

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### Section 2.1: Project Summary

In **250-300 words**, describe the overarching research project over the course of the eight-month program and how you propose to accomplish the objectives of the research project.

The project summary should contain:

- A statement of your motivation, problem, and research question.
  - A justification and importance of your research topic.
  - How does your project differentiate itself in the current research field and how does it build on previous research in your broader discipline? Make sure you understand the previous research that has been done in your broader discipline and in your specific subfield. Be specific throughout.
  - The expected outcome(s) of the research project and its associated objectives.
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### TIPS FOR CREATIVE WORKS:

Creative Works theses combine critical and creative modes.

In the **critical mode**, you should explore previous research in your field and concentrate on how your project applies innovative methods to existing mediums and/or uses established modes to develop new knowledge through its application. This research will help you design a specific motivation, problem, or question you want to answer through your Creative Artifact.

As part of the **creative mode**, you should develop a Creative Artifact that is appropriate for the genre or medium that you are exploring. Your Creative Artifact should answer your research question and will be further developed through exhibition and reflection throughout the academic year. The Creative Work thesis is the combination of your analysis, artifact, and reflection.

Creative Works project summaries must also answer the following questions:

- How does your anticipated Creative Artifact build on previous research in your genre or medium?
- What processes or medium-specific tools will it incorporate; why?
- What form will the anticipated Creative Artifact take and what new knowledge will it produce?

**PROJECT SUMMARY:**

Click or tap here to enter Project Summary. The content area will expand with added text.

## Section 2.2: Introduction

In **350-500 words**, expand on your common research theme and why it is an important object of scholarly inquiry in the context of your research field.

The Introduction usually requires a discussion of your literature review and a summary of the pertinent previous research in your field that shows the relationship between your project(s) and the material you cite.

In the Introduction, be sure that you are:

- Using in-text in a citation style appropriate for your discipline to indicate your academic indebtedness to previous research (ex: ACS, AMA, APA, Chicago, IEEE, MLA, etc.). Failure to use appropriate in-text citations will result in your proposal being returned to you for revisions.
- Demonstrating that you have surveyed the state of knowledge in your research area and that you understand how your outcomes will make an important contribution to your field.
- Introducing your thesis statement.

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Click or tap here to enter Introduction. The content area will expand with added text.

## Section 2.3: Objective(s)/Goal(s)

In **75-100 words**, describe your research objectives and goals clearly and succinctly.

State your hypothesis, research question, or motivation so that a reader from any research background can understand what it is you are trying to accomplish.

Articulate how your research contributes to the ongoing discussion in your research field.

Describe the purpose, scope, rationale, and motivation for this research.

Do not explain your methodology or theoretical framework in this section.

### **OBJECTIVES/GOALS:**

Click or tap here to enter Objective(s)/Goal(s). The content area will expand with added text.

## Section 2.4: Methodology/Theoretical Framework

In **100-200 words**, propose how you will tackle your research question and what research methodologies you will employ that will ensure the evidence you will procure is warranted for the research you are conducting.

Describe the approach, techniques, and procedures you will take to complete your project.

Describe the resources you need to do your research (e.g., laboratory, library or other space, documents or books you need to reference, databases you need access to) and the people you will interact with during the research process.

Describe the terminology that explains the disciplinary standards you will employ in your project.

This section should align with the steps you describe in your timeline.

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### TIPS FOR ARTS, HUMANITIES, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES:

In addition to the above, describe what theoretical framework drives the lens through which you will carry out your research (e.g., Historical, Feminist, Literary, Ethnographic, Post-memory, etc.).

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### TIPS FOR CREATIVE WORKS:

In addition to the above, describe how the Creative Artifact will be developed as an outgrowth of your research methodology and concentrate on how your project applies innovative methods to existing mediums and/or uses established modes to develop new knowledge through its application.

### METHODOLOGY/THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK:

Click or tap here to enter Methodology. The content area will expand with added text.

## Section 2.5: Bibliography/References/Works Cited

**A minimum of FOUR scholarly, peer-reviewed sources are required.**

Choose a citation style appropriate for your discipline under the advisement of your Faculty Advisor.

Include a list of at least FOUR references for all the literature cited in the text of the preceding proposal sections.

This might also include your literature review and text that you intend to consult.

Ensure that each citation contains all required components, such as author, title, publisher, date, source, and page numbers (if applicable).

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The following types of sources are not appropriate and result in an **automatic rejection** and request for revisions:

- Wikipedia
- YouTube
- Personal Websites
- Blogs
- Popular Magazines
- Entertainment Publications
- General News

### ***BIBLIOGRAPHY/REFERENCES/WORKS CITED:***

Click or tap here to enter References/Works Cited. The content area will expand with added text.

## Section 5: Contingency Plan

### *Section 5: Contingency Plan*

Students are required to apply with a contingency plan that describes how the URS project will be completed if you are unable to follow the scope of the original project proposal due to unforeseen circumstances such as illness, supply chain issues, lost or corrupted data, etc. The purpose of this contingency plan is to help you complete the URS thesis program on time and to fulfill graduation or other program requirements, such as Honors distinction requirements.

Depending on the project, this contingency plan could address, but is not limited to, the following:

- Lack of physical access to research space, data, or other resources
- Inability to obtain equipment, permission, data, or other resources
- Partial or incomplete data, trials, experiments, reviews, analyses, design, etc.
- Limited and/or restricted travel
- Inability to hold in-person meetings • Virtual project completion if moved fully online

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In **200-250 words**, give a detailed description of a contingency plan that will guide you in the case that you experience disruptions and/or unanticipated impacts on your URS project and thesis. Explain how you will adjust your project and thesis writing timeline as if you were to experience unforeseen circumstances.

### **CONTINGENCY PLAN:**

Click or tap here to enter a Contingency Plan. The content area will expand with added text.

## Section 6: Timeline

The Timeline section is meant to help you plan to effectively carry out your research goals over the course of the academic year and give proposal reviewers a sense of your overall project plan.

We recommend that you design your research, writing, and communication goals as if this timeline were a class syllabus.

Keep in mind the program requirements and think about what you need to accomplish each WEEK, providing as much **project-specific** detail as possible.

List action items and other milestones for the project; list deliverables in paragraph format or bulleted list.

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Timelines that fail to address the specificity of project tasks, action items, and deliverables on a week-to-week basis will result in **automatic rejection** and a one-time request for revisions. This means that phrases similar to the following are prohibited:

- “Continue experiments and write results”
- “Continue writing thesis”
- “Attend group check-in”
- “Submit installment draft and progress report”

### Section 6.1: September and October Goals

Click or tap here to enter weekly September and October Goals. The content area will expand with added text.

## Section 6.2: November and December Goals

Click or tap here to enter weekly November and December Goals. The content area will expand with added text.

## Section 6.3: January and February Goals

Click or tap here to enter weekly January and February Goals. The content area will expand with added text.

## Section 6.4: March Goals

Click or tap here to enter weekly March Goals. The content area will expand with added text.

## Section 3: Application and Program Agreements

### Section 3.1: Research Compliance Agreement

#### **POLICY**

Faculty advisors who mentor undergraduates in the URS thesis program are solely responsible for advising and verifying student research compliance, research ethics, and necessary training. Faculty advisors are required to review and approve all aspects of URS applications and final theses, including the student's Research Compliance Acknowledgement.

Regulatory research committee (IRB and/or IBC and/or IACUC) approval is required before research activities involving human subjects, animals, or biohazards can commence. This requirement applies to activities conducted at Texas A&M and to activities at non-Texas A&M facilities and institutions. In both cases, students are responsible for working with Texas A&M's office of Research Compliance & Biosafety to ensure and document that all Texas A&M compliance obligations are met before the research begins. Students and faculty advisors are encouraged to reach out to the appropriate research compliance committee as early as possible.

The Research Compliance Acknowledgement section of the URS application is necessary to document the following:

Faculty advisor(s) approval of the proposed research

Student awareness and action to address any and all compliance issues for research involving human subjects, animals, and biohazards with the office of Research Compliance & Biosafety while conducting research

#### **AGREEMENT**

I acknowledge and certify that all research compliance requirements related to this proposal have been addressed with your faculty advisor(s) prior to submission.

If any approvals or training are needed, I agree not to collect any data until approvals have been obtained and required training has been completed.

I understand that if the scope of the proposed research project changes, those changes must be addressed with my Faculty Advisor and the office of Research Compliance & Biosafety prior to implementation.

#### **CHECK ONE BOX:**

**I disagree**       **I agree**

## Section 3.2: Program Expectations Agreement

### **POLICY**

The management of this program relies on Texas A&M Student Rules, and as the Student Rules website states, “each student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with and to comply with the Texas A&M University Student Rules.”

Given the variety of submission deadlines and mandatory meetings part of this program, you are likely to engage with Student Rule 07. All students should be familiar with Student Rule 07 as well as the program's meeting and assignment requirements before engaging with the program. Students who do not meet program expectations and do not provide university-excused absences will face possible dismissal from the program.

Additionally, Student Rule 20 and Student Rule 24 are particularly important for this program, as it holds a university-level honors distinction. Students in this program are held to the highest standards and are expected to adhere to the Aggie Code of Honor and Student Conduct Code. All students should be familiar with Student Rule 20 and Student Rule 24 before engaging with the program.

Finally, all students in this program should be familiar with the University's guidelines on research misconduct, research integrity, and research ethics and compliance from the start. All individuals associated with Texas A&M University are responsible for maintaining our high standards of scholarly integrity.

### **AGREEMENT**

I have read and understand the Program Expectations Agreement. I acknowledge that my thesis is written in progression, and I must comply with the Undergraduate Research Scholars thesis program timeline and deadlines. I also acknowledge that if I do not meet the program eligibility requirements or obtain the necessary waiver forms, I will not be accepted into the program.

### **CHECK ONE BOX:**

**I disagree**                       **I agree**

## Section 3.3: Honor and Student Conduct Code Agreement

### **POLICY**

Students in the URS thesis program must be in good standing at the university while they are in the program, at the time of graduation distinction audit, and through graduation to be eligible for the Undergraduate Research Scholar honors transcript distinction.

Students who receive the F\* sanction for academic misconduct at any time from entry to Texas A&M University through graduation are ineligible to participate in the URS program or receive the Undergraduate Research Scholar honors transcript distinction.

Students who have been found responsible for a Honor Code or Student Conduct Code violation and sanctioned with suspension or expulsion at any time from entry to Texas A&M University through graduation, or any sanction that has resulted in their not being in good disciplinary standing while they are in the program, at the time of graduation distinction audit, and through graduation are ineligible to participate in the URS program or receive the Undergraduate Research Scholar honors transcript distinction upon final resolution of their case.

Students may not be awarded the Undergraduate Research Scholar honors transcript distinction retroactively after completing the Academic Integrity Development Program.

### **AGREEMENT**

I have read and understand the Honors and Student Conduct Code Agreement. I acknowledge that any type of honor or student conduct code violation from Student Rules will result in a review and possible dismissal from the URS thesis program, if I am accepted. Additionally, I acknowledge that any type of honor or student conduct code violation after completion of the program will result in a review and ineligibility to receive the Undergraduate Research Scholar honors distinction on my official transcript.

### **CHECK ONE BOX:**

**I disagree**                       **I agree**

## Section 3.4: Advisor Approval Agreement

### **AGREEMENT**

I understand that my Faculty Advisor is required to review and approve my application.

I understand that a reviewer will be assigned to review my application and I may receive requests for feedback before I am accepted to the program.

I understand that the Office of Undergraduate Research staff will review my application and will issue the final acceptance notification.

### **CHECK ONE BOX:**

**I disagree**                       **I agree**