

Guidelines for Final Project Proposals in Public Policy

A one-credit final project is the usual culminating academic exercise for all graduate students in public policy at Trinity College. The project should be undertaken only after all other courses have been completed unless a student has received permission from his/her academic advisor to begin a project while completing a final course, or unless a very specific research opportunity compels an earlier date for undertaking the project.

Alternatively, students who entertain the possibility of proceeding to further graduate work leading to a Ph.D. degree elsewhere may seek permission to complete a two-credit scholarly thesis. This option is available only for those who have demonstrated exceptional academic achievement (including a cumulative GPA of 3.667 or higher) and whose research will most productively be undertaken over the course of two terms.

Deadlines for Proposals:

- All proposals for a final project to be completed during the fall term are due no later than April 15.
- All proposals for a final project to be completed during the spring term are due no later than November 15.
- All proposals for a final project to be completed during the summer term are due no later than April 1.

Submission and Approval of Proposals

Proposals for final projects (or theses) should include the following information:

- A working title and brief abstract (including a statement of purpose, the significance of the project, reasons for undertaking the project, and a summary of the questions to be explored);
- A detailed description of the methodology to be employed, including evidence that Institutional Review Board guidelines and requirements have been fulfilled for research that involves surveys of human subjects;
- A briefly annotated preliminary bibliography of scholarly and other resources;
- Written approval of the proposed faculty adviser for the project.

Proposals must be submitted via email to the Program Director, Professor Kevin McMahon (Kevin.McMahon.1@trincoll.edu), who will consider them. Once a proposal has been approved, a copy should be attached to the Graduate Final Project Enrollment Approval Form (see below) and submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies in order to register for the final project or thesis.