

SMEA Thesis Prospectus Suggested Outline

Excerpted from ["The SMEA Student's Guide to the Thesis Process"](#):

The Thesis Prospectus is a research design which lays out the intended course of work leading to the completed thesis. A typical Prospectus consists of 5-10 pages of text plus a bibliography and timetable. It should be developed in consultation with the student's Thesis Chair and/or other Thesis Committee Members. The Thesis Prospectus should contain the following items:

1. Prospectus Summary Page
2. Description of Problem or Opportunity Addressed
3. Listing and Explanation of the Major Questions to be Posed
4. Identification of Relevant Data or Information Needs
5. A Plan for Information Collection
6. Methodology or Analytical Approaches to be Used (What are their strengths/limits?)
7. Draft Table of Contents
8. Potential Findings or Tentative Conclusions (if any available)
9. Anticipated Problems (e.g., access to data, time constraints)
10. A Bibliography of Papers, Books, Materials
11. A Proposed Time Schedule for Completion