

## Mechanical Engineering Department Prospectus Policy

The Prospectus Examination serves as a crucial milestone in a PhD candidate's progression within the Mechanical Engineering Department at FAMU-FSU College of Engineering. This examination allows candidates to showcase and defend their research plans to the dissertation committee. The following policy provides detailed guidelines and requisites pertaining to the Prospectus Examination.

**Purpose of the Prospectus:** The Prospectus serves as a precursor to the dissertation, detailing the candidate's research trajectory. It must lucidly define the research objectives, methodologies employed, preliminary results, and the roadmap for the remainder of the PhD tenure.

**Written document:** The candidate should prepare a comprehensive written document. This document, which is often incorporated as part of the PhD dissertation, outlines in detail the research aims, methodologies employed, preliminary results obtained, and the proposed plan for the remaining duration of their PhD training. The dissertation committee reviews this document and provide critical feedback and suggestions.

**Presentation Requirements:** The candidate is required to deliver a formal oral presentation, highlighting their research plan and addressing questions or concerns from the committee members. The Prospectus presentation must occur in real-time with all committee members in attendance, either in-person or via virtual platforms like Zoom. The presentation should not exceed an hour. After the presentation, the committee members will participate in a Q&A session to discuss the content further. This process should ensure that the research direction and methodology are sound and aligned with the expectations of the department.

**Timeline:** Candidates are required to present and defend their Prospectus within two years of successfully passing the preliminary exam.

**Submission Requirements:** Following the Prospectus Examination, students must submit the Prospectus Defense form to the Mechanical Engineering Graduate Coordinator. The form should be signed by all committee members, indicating their approval or recommendations for the presented Prospectus.