

**WPI DATA SCIENCE**  
**Ph.D. DISSERTATION PROPOSAL FORM**

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ WPI ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Dissertation Proposal Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Location, Date and Time of Proposal: \_\_\_\_\_

Ph.D. students conduct research that constitutes a contribution to knowledge in the field of Data Science. Each student prepares a written Proposal which must be of publication quality. It must demonstrate a sound understanding of the dissertation topic, the relevant literature, the techniques to be employed, the issues to be addressed, and the work accomplished on the topic to date. The student defends the dissertation proposal work orally in a public forum, followed by a private examination given by the Dissertation Committee. The proposal should be defended within **4** years after beginning the program for Ph.D. 90 students, within **2** years in the program for Ph.D. 60 students, and *at least one year before the completion of the Ph.D. Dissertation*. Students may repeat this milestone at most once.

**DISSERTATION COMMITTEE COMPOSITION**

- ✓ The *Research Advisor* must be faculty within the Data Science Steering Committee, or upon approval by said Committee, a WPI tenure-track faculty affiliated with the Data Science program.
- ✓ The Dissertation Committee must consist of at least four faculty members.
- ✓ At least two different WPI departments participating in the Data Science program, Mathematical Sciences, Computer Science, and/or Robert A. Foisie School of Business, must be represented in the committee.
- ✓ At least one Committee member must be from outside of WPI.

**PROCESS**

- 1.** Student submits proposal manuscript to committee typically *4 weeks* before proposal date.
- 2.** Student announces public defense date for the proposal with at least *1 week* notice.
- 3.** Student defends the proposed research plan in a public presentation.
- 4.** Student is subsequently examined privately by the Dissertation Committee.
- 5.** The Committee announces the joint decision or outcome.

**OUTCOME**

*The Data Science Ph.D. Dissertation Committee has made the following decision:*

- PASS
- PASS WITH ADDITIONAL WORK: as detailed on back of this page and signed by off primary advisor.
- REPEAT: additional work revision to be completed within 6 months and signed off by committee.
- FAIL: this results in dismissal from the Data Science Ph.D. program.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Comments on Dissertation Outcome and/or Further Work Requirements:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS NAME , AFFILIATION & SIGNATURE CONFIRMING ABOVE DECISION**

Ph.D. Research Advisor Signature and Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Ph.D. Research Advisor Printed Name and Affiliation:* \_\_\_\_\_

Committee Member Signature and Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Committee Member Printed Name and Affiliation:* \_\_\_\_\_

Committee Member Signature and Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Committee Member Printed Name and Affiliation:* \_\_\_\_\_

Committee Member Signature and Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Committee Member Printed Name and Affiliation:* \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMENTS and SIGNATURE CONFIRMING COMPLETION of RECOMMENDATIONS**

Advisors' Comments, Date, and Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
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