

University of Pittsburgh
Institute for Clinical Research Education (ICRE)
Master of Science in Clinical Research
Final Project – Prospectus and Review Committee Form

Due: September 1 (Year 2)

Student Name _____

Students must choose one of following options to fulfill the Final Project requirement for the Master of Science in Clinical Research:

- *A standard thesis:* A candidate may elect to write a master’s thesis in his or her field of specialty. A thesis produced under this option must conform to all applicable University policies regarding theses (visit <http://www.pitt.edu/~graduate/etd> for details).
- *A grant proposal for an R01, K-award, or equivalent award:* An eligible trainee may elect to write an R01 or equivalent research proposal on which he or she is the principal investigator as evidence of his or her ability to plan and conduct independent research. To satisfy requirements of the Final Project, the proposal must be reviewed and approved by an appropriate scientific review committee from the candidate's department; it must be “submission ready.” Two members of the committee must be independent (i.e., not listed as key personnel on the grant). Note that career development awards funded through the K12 or KL2 mechanism may not be used as the Final Project.
- *Two manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed journals:* At the discretion of a trainee’s ICRE advisor, the trainee may elect to write two first-authored manuscripts related to his or her research project and submit these manuscripts as evidence of independent work. The manuscripts must be original research papers organized and formatted for peer-reviewed journals; they must be “submission ready.” Each manuscript must be reviewed by at least two members of the Review Committee who are not coauthors. At least one member of the committee must be independent (i.e., not a coauthor on either paper) and only the trainee’s mentor/co-mentor (maximum of two) can be a coauthor on both papers.

The final project must meet the NIH definition of clinical research, “Research conducted with human subjects (or on material of human origin such as tissues, specimens and cognitive phenomena) for which an investigator (or colleague) directly interacts with human subjects. Excluded from this definition are in vitro studies that utilize human tissues that cannot be linked to a living individual. Patient-oriented research includes: (a) mechanisms of human disease, (b) therapeutic interventions, (c) clinical trials, and (d) development of new technologies.”

For each of the options, the trainee’s Final Project must be presented and defended before a review committee. Both the review committee and the ICRE program coordinator must receive a copy of the Final Project at least 10 business days prior to the defense date. Additional information and periodic updates about the Final Project can be found on our website:

http://www.icre.pitt.edu/degrees/mscr_thesis_subst.html.

Complete the information below and review it with your ICRE Academic Advisor. **This form must be approved and signed by your advisor before submitting it to the ICRE Administrative Office.**

Return this completed form to: ICRE Administrative Office, 200 Meyran Avenue, Suite 300.

For Office Use Only

Approved: _____
Not Approved: _____

Date: _____

PART 1. Title of Final Project

Option selected:

Thesis

Grant Proposal

Two Manuscripts

Project title (if choosing the two-manuscript option, include titles for both papers and complete Part 1a. below):

PART 1a. Independent Reviewer(s):

Independent Reviewers for Paper 1: _____

Independent Reviewers for Paper 2: _____

Independent Reviewers for Paper 1 and 2: _____

PART 2. List of Review Committee Members (with signatures)

The ICRE Review Committee is chaired by your ICRE academic advisor (or another ICRE faculty member named by the advisor). The Committee also must include your mentor and at least one ad hoc member familiar with your project. (If your mentor is not in your primary department, the ad hoc member should be someone from your department.) The ICRE faculty member and ICRE Leadership Committee may indicate that additional reviewers (e.g., independent reviewers, statisticians) are needed.

ICRE Advisor (print name): _____

Title: _____

Signature: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Project Mentor (print name): _____

Title: _____

Signature: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Faculty Member #1 (print name): _____

Title: _____

Signature: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Faculty Member #2 (print name): _____

Title: _____

Signature: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

PART 3. Description of Final Project

Attach a description of your Final Project before submitting this form to your ICRE advisor. If choosing either the thesis or grant proposal options, include a 1- to 2-page description. If choosing the two-manuscript option, provide titles and descriptions for both papers, including all coauthors. Your description should include the following information:

Grant Proposal (1 – 2 pages): Introduction/Background; Aims; Brief Methods

Two-Manuscripts (1 page for each manuscript): Introduction; Research Questions; Brief Methods;
list all co-authors

Standard Thesis (1 – 2 pages): Introduction/Background; Aims; Research Questions/ Brief Methods

PART 4. Approval of the ICRE Advisor

Advisor Comments:

Signature of ICRE Academic Advisor

Date