

**Dissertation Proposal Prospectus (DPP)**

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| **Student Name:** | **Miao Cai** | | | | | | **Banner ID:** | | **000966596** |
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| **SLU Email:** | | | | **miao.cai@slu.edu** | | | | | |
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| **Major Field:** | | Public Health Studies | | | | **Degree Sought:** | | PhD | |
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| **Mentor/Advisor:** | | | | | **Steven E. Rigdon, PhD** | | | | |
|  | | | | |  | | | | |
| **Reader:** | | | | | **Hong Xian, PhD** | | | | |
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| **Reader:** | | | | | **Fadel Megahed, PhD** | | | | |

**Dissertation Title**

Please type in the space below the anticipated title of the doctoral dissertation. The title should be both precise and concise and should contain several key words or phrases to facilitate future electronic database searches.

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| Modeling Truck Safety Critical Events: Efficient Bayesian Hierarchical Statistical and Reliability Models |

The next several pages should include the following sections:

**The Problem**

Clearly state the problem chosen for investigation.

**Literature Review**

Summarize briefly the important contributions of previous researchers that form the immediate background for the problem to be investigated, the approach to the study, and contributions individually with entries in the preceding bibliography. Describe present knowledge relevant to the problem in question and the pursuit of the extension of that knowledge. List research question(s).

**Research Aims**

Describe the research problems to be addressed and why these are important issues.

**Methods**

Provide a detailed description of the research design; present the plan of investigation. Characterize the data to be gathered, and suggest how the data will be organized, reduced, and analyzed towards preparation of the responses to the research questions formulated.

**The Probable Content**

Indicate the manner in which the prepared dissertation is likely to be organized; list the chapter headings as they may appear in the Table of Contents.

**Bibliography**

Prepare a list of the principal sources directly related to the problem being investigated. For the individual bibliographic entries, use the style specified by the major field of study but also in accordance with [SLU’s Graduate Education formatting guide](http://www.slu.edu/academics/graduate/pdfs/slu_formatting_guide.pdf).

Include this material after the cover page (shown on the previous page). Then add the University approvals and College for Public Health & Social Justice approvals (shown on the next two pages).

Components of DPP Students outline their plans for their dissertation in a document called the Dissertation Proposal Prospectus (DPP). The DPP should be formatted according to Graduate Education’s formatting guidelines for a SLU dissertation, especially regarding the spacing, fonts, and margins. The DPP should fully document the following attributes of the proposed research:

1. The title page.
2. The problem chosen for investigation (about 2-3 pages). Includes a full description of the problem to be addressed. Since the committee may be composed of one or more members who are outside of the concentration area, the description should be written so as to be understandable to them.
3. Literature review (about 8-12 pages). Includes a thorough review of research that is directly related to the topic.
4. Research aims (about 1-2 pages). Describes the research problems to be addressed and why these are important issues.
5. Methods (about 8-12 pages). In as great a detail as possible, describes the research plan, methods, and how it will address the stated research aims.
6. Probable contents of the dissertation (about 1-2 pages). Gives a listing of dissertation chapters and a brief description of what will be contained in each.
7. Bibliography (about 4 pages or as many as necessary).
8. The signature page (1 page). This is where members of the committee indicate their approval of the proposed plan of research. Signatures should only be made after the completion of the oral exam.

**University Approvals**

Regulations of the Federal Government demand University critique of every research design that in any way requests/requires information from or cooperation of human subjects or involves laboratory animals. If human subjects are to be sources of data, one or more informed consent forms may be required as addenda to the research design.

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| Are human subjects required in this research? | Yes |

If “Yes” the Principal Investigator must provide the IRB number and sign to indicate that the Institutional Review Board (IRB) has approved the design and the informed consent form(s).

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Student Signature: |  | IRB #: |  |

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| Are laboratory animals required in this research? | No |

If “Yes” the Principal Investigator must provide the ACC authorization number and sign to indicate that the Animal Care Committee (ACC) has approved this research design.

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| Student Signature: |  | ACC #: |  |

**College for Public Health & Social Justice Approvals**

The mentor and two readers are responsible for critical reviews of this prospectus. The mentor, the two readers, and the doctoral program director(s) must sign to indicate full approval.

Comments, if any, may be made by the mentor, readers, or the doctoral program director(s) on separate pages to then be affixed to this document.

Note: If human subjects or laboratory animals are required in the research, the student should obtain the necessary approvals from the respectively prior to the commencement of research and prior to the oral exam. If Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Animal Care Committee (ACC) approvals are required, then this section should not be completed [signatures affixed] until the appropriate approvals are obtained.

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| Mentor Signature: |  | Date: |  |
| Mentor Print: | Steven E. Rigdon |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Reader Signature: |  | Date: |  |
| Reader Print: | Hong Xian |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Reader Signature: |  | Date: |  |
| Reader Print: | Fadel Megahed |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Doctoral Program Director Signature: |  | Date: |  |
| Doctoral Program Director Print: | Enbal Shacham |  |  |

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| --- | --- |
| Date that this Proposal/Prospectus was filed with the Ph.D. Program Coordinator: |  |