M.A. in CONFLICT ANALYSIS AND RESOLUTION
Thesis Proposal Outline

Students in the thesis track program are expected to follow the below format in delivering their thesis proposal. Be specific, and make sure to use the exact titles of sections that are used below in your proposal. The proposal is expected to be 10 pages, double-spaced without the bibliography.

Title of the Research

I. Basic Concept: This section should be about one paragraph. State your focus/goal and how you are going to address the problem. In this brief introduction, make sure to include why this subject is important and research worthy.

II. Problem & Subject: This is the section where you substantiate what you discussed as your goal in the previous section. In other words, your preliminary literature review makes up this section. Talk about how to locate your goal in the broader context of the scientific field.

III. Methods: This is the most important part of your proposal. Which methodology are you going to use in executing your research? Talk about the technical aspects of that specific approach and your research steps. Describe your research instruments (survey, narrative analysis, content analysis, etc.). Think of this section as the roadmap for your thesis.

IV. Significance: Use this section to discuss the significance of your research. What is missing in the field that you are attempting to fill with this research? You can talk about the theoretical, methodological and/or policy-related significance depending on the topic and research interest.

V. Schedule of Completion: Make a calendar with dates of delivery for literature review, data collection, data analysis, results, conclusion/revision, and final revision. Work with your thesis advisor for certain deadlines.

VI. Results: Discuss your plans for the end product. Are you going to submit your thesis as a journal article? Will you present it at a conference? Will you publish it as a policy paper? In other words, what are you aspiring to do with your thesis when it is finished?

VII. Bibliography

NOTE Approximate page requirements: Theses can range from 120-300 pages. See CONF website for examples.