

PROPOSAL PLANNING

1. Find a paper (or a couple) written by a COALS faculty member. Find the author's name: _____ and email: _____
2. Introduction (part a): What knowledge gaps or future directions are listed in the conclusion(s) section that you find interesting? What research needs can you identify?
3. Introduction (part b): Define your project with a hypothesis or two:
4. Specific Aim(s): List your aims (1-3 at most), these are your goals/objectives. Make them SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Timely):
5. Methodology: What do you need to test your hypothesis?
6. Expected Results: What do you hope to find?
7. Pitfalls: What issues might you encounter? *Experiments that do not work, plants die (or do not die), unavailable literature, insufficient subjects, inaccessible data, weather issues....*
8. Alternative Approaches: What can you do if you experience a pitfall?

Use this outline as a guide to help you write your draft 2-page proposal including an introduction, specific aims, methodology, expected results, potential pitfalls, and alternative approaches. You can now reach out to the faculty member you identified above with your ideas and see if they will help you refine the ideas into a research project you can complete under their mentorship. Did you get rejected by one professor? Talk to your academic advisor, program coordinator, and your departmental research & internship coordinator, and find out if they know of other faculty members that often mentor students in your major. Start the process again and do not give up!