

**University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine
Residency Programs**

Preliminary Proposal Outline

Prepare a short preliminary outline of your proposed research project that addresses the following areas:

- A.** Topic Area/Proposal Title:
- B.** Research question(s) to be addressed:
- Should pass the “So what?” test
 - Think about the FINER characteristics (**F**easible, **I**nteresting, **N**ovel, **E**thical, **R**elevant)
 - More specific is more manageable – think exploratory or pilot study
- C.** Significance/background/rationale for the study
- **B**rief review of literature: what is known, what problems/gaps are there in our present knowledge?
 - Why is the research question important? (May include problem statement)
- D.** Study design
- Type of study you have in mind – observational, records review, development/validation of an instrument, evaluation of a treatment or other intervention, survey, etc.
 - Potential subjects – what population are you interested in?
 - Types of measures/study procedures – what information do you want to collect? How would you collect it?
 - Practical & logistical considerations, if applicable – where would you conduct the study? Do you need access to specialized equipment?
- E.** References – for background/significance section

Based on:

Cummings SR, Browner WS, Hulley SB. Conceiving the research question. In: Hulley SB, Cummings SR, Browner WS, Grady D, Nearst N, Newman TB. Designing clinical research. 2nd Ed. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 2001. p.17-24.