

Instructions for the Final Proposal, BMB 174

General format

The final report should describe an original, out of field (i.e., not what you have, are, or will work on in your current or past laboratory, nor any research that is taking place or will take place in that lab) research proposal that pertains to biochemistry and molecular biophysics of macromolecules. The proposal will adopt a simplified version of the current NIH R01 format. The overall proposal is 10-12 pages long, 1.5 spacing, and divided into the following parts:

1. Specific aims (1–1.5 page)

Start with a brief description of the overall objectives of the proposal, and then list the specific goals of the research proposed, e.g., to test a hypothesis, create a novel assay, solve a specific problem, etc. In general, 2-3 specific aims are recommended. Note that different aims should not go in disparate directions, but rather connect with each other cohesively to address the overall objective.

2. Background and significance.

Briefly sketch the background leading to the proposal, with emphasis on explaining the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress that the proposal addresses.

3. Approach

Describe the strategy, methodology and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the proposal. Describe in detail the experimental design that addresses each of the specific aims in part (1), and the interpretation of potential outcomes from the experiment. Discuss potential problems and alternative strategies, if applicable.

Carefully read the guidelines and instructions for proposal evaluation. This contains important information on what is considered a strong proposal.

Please email your proposal to bmb170c@gmail.com by the deadline specified in your course syllabus. You will receive the proposals for review as soon as we have received all of them.