The proposal should be specific, clear and succinct: what the student wishes to investigate, what research has been done on the subject, why the subject is worthy of investigation and what methodology will be used in the research.

The proposal should be two to three pages (single-spaced), plus a preliminary bibliography.

On the proposal form, identify which of the options you will use to complete your Senior Project. No matter which option you choose, your written proposal should have the following five sections:

**Statement of Problem or Research Question (a few sentences)**

Research begins with the identification of a disciplinary problem needing a solution, an unanswered question, or a claim needing proof. Specify the problem, question, theme, or claim to be investigated. Your research may be a deeper investigation of a past class project or may contribute to ongoing research of your mentor. If this is the case, you will craft your problem statement to consider the relevance of your contribution.

**Summary Review of Scholarship Relevant to the Project (a few paragraphs)**

Reviewing the literature that has already been published on your topic, briefly summarize what is already known about the problem, questions, or claim to be investigated. If you will be replicating a previous study, specify how and why your research will be different. You may wish to use Google Scholar for this.

**Significance of the Research (a few paragraphs)**

Indicate why your research is necessary and important (in other words, address the “so what?” question). Describe how it will contribute to the body of knowledge in your field or profession.

**Methodology (a few paragraphs)**

Indicate the manner in which the disciplinary problem, question, or claim to be investigated will be researched and why your method is appropriate. Your supervising professor will help you determine the best methodology for your project.

***If you have chosen the study abroad, service learning, or internship option, your methodology will have two parts. The first method will be the academic basis as stated in the paragraph above (this is the same type of methodology that is typically found in a thesis). The second part will be rooted in your work outside the university. Specifically, how you plan to make use of the community knowledge or the workplace experience in your research. If human subjects are part of your research, you may be required to go through the Institutional Research Board (IRB).

**Preliminary Bibliography**

Attach a preliminary list of relevant scholarly sources as noted above in the *Summary Review* section. Please note that your thesis mentor may require an annotated bibliography and/or a prospectus of the project.

For the Senior Project proposal, students **should have no less than five sources**; more if possible.

***For internships and service learning, include the location and supervisor.