

It is not necessary to type your abstract within this box, but abstracts often have to fit in a box.

Problem to be addressed:

In 1-2 sentences state the research question. Make sure you include information about the study regarding person, time and place. For example, to investigate the association between taking the master's thesis course and having one's master's thesis proposal approved among master's students in the Department of Epidemiology, MSPH, Fall 2002.

Background and significance:

In one paragraph, define the problem, why it is important, what is known about it, what gap(s) in knowledge your study is intended to fill, why it is innovative and how it will contribute to public health. In other words, SELL YOUR IDEA.

Hypotheses:

Your hypotheses (at least one, no more than three) should be closely related to the research question. If you have more than one hypothesis, they should be independent from one another. Make sure you include the direction of the association or effect you expect to observe (i.e., increase, decrease or remain the same). For example, taking the master's thesis course will be associated with a decrease in time to approval of master's thesis proposals among Epidemiology masters students during the Fall 2002. This increase will be independent of students having a dataset.

Methods:

In one paragraph, present the information that best describes your study in terms of study design (i.e., observational, experimental), population (i.e., source of the population, characteristics of the population in term of age, sex and race/ethnicity if known, inclusion and exclusion criteria), outcome(s) to be examined and their characteristics, exposures (or Interventions) and their characteristics, covariates or confounding variables and their characteristics, and statistical analysis (i.e., descriptive [i.e., mean, frequencies, proportions, etc], bivariate (i.e., t-test, Chi-square, correlation, etc) and multivariable analysis approaches [i.e., logistic, linear, Cox, Poisson]). BE BRIEF BUT CLEAR AND SPECIFIC.

I have received and reviewed the "Student Guidelines for the Master's Thesis" and accept my responsibilities as a reader of the above student's proposed master's thesis. I have reviewed the project and the above abstract with the student, and I consider the project described both valid as master's level work and consistent with the student's expected graduation date.

Signatures:

First reader

Date

Second reader

Date

Student's advisor

Date

Approval of the Committee on Master's Programs in Epidemiology

Date