**Proposal Defense Summary**

Student Name

The purpose of this document is to provide a succinct, one-page description of what your PhD research will accomplish. Your committee, regardless of their background, should have a clear understanding of your overall plan and approach after reading this page. It is similar to summaries written for proposals submitted to NSF (Project Summary), NIH (Specific Aims), and other agencies. Use a standard font type and size (not less than 11 pt), with margins of no less than 0.5 inches, and include no figures. In the first paragraph, provide a descriptive, succinct statement of the problem or application your research will address. This should include the background material necessary to frame your problem in a general context so that readers who are not experts in the field can see how this work will be a significant contribution. Once the problem has been defined, state your overall hypothesis or objective and give a brief overview of your approach to addressing the problem. This approach should take the form of approximately three sub-objectives or specific aims, each of which you might anticipate becoming a published manuscript as the work progresses. You will provide more detailed descriptions of each of these aims in the following paragraphs. It is recommended that your summary utilize the format shown in this document.

**Objective 1: Statement of first objective.** *If appropriate, statement of hypothesis / research question that the objective will test / answer*. In this paragraph, provide a brief description of your first sub-objective or specific aim. You may need to provide a little more background for each objective, including any progress you’ve been able to make to-date, but the focus should be on methodology and the logic your approach will apply to address the question. Clearly describe the approach you plan to follow. It is likely that facets of the approach will change as you continue your work, but the current plan should be logical and complete.

**Objective 2: Statement of second objective**. *Hypothesis / question*. Description of approach for Objective 2.

**Objective 3: Statement of third objective**. *Hypothesis / question*. Description of approach for Objective 3.

In a final paragraph, summarize the “intellectual merit” and “broader impacts” (see NSF definitions) of your proposed work. It may also be useful to briefly describe how each of the objectives or aims will work together to address the stated problem.

Following the proposal presentation and discussion, it may be necessary to adjust the Proposal Summary to reflect expectations agreed upon by the student and committee members. The final version should be signed by each member of the committee and filed with the Graduate Advisor.