Soon after completing written PhD or MFA examinations, a Creative Writing student must submit to his or her dissertation or thesis director and the Director of Creative Writing a written proposal that describes the dissertation or thesis project.

The proposal should include:

1) A description of the project that includes basic information—collection of poems, novel, collection of short fiction, etc.—and details describing the proposed project: subject matter, form, plot, style, etc.
2) A description of the creative processes and methods the student feels will be most useful in completing the dissertation project.
3) An annotated bibliography of published works and writers the student sees as significant influences. Annotations should seek to explain the influences of these works and writers on the dissertation project.
4) A list of at least 5 and no more than 10 presses and/or book publication contests and/or literary agents to which the student feels it would be appropriate to submit the completed dissertation or thesis project.

If the dissertation or thesis director and the Director of Creative Writing judge the student’s proposal to be acceptable, the student will be given permission to proceed with the project.