Republic of the Philippines
Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology
SCHOOL OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES
Andres Bonifacio Avenue, Tibanga, 9200 Iligan City
Tel.: (063) 221-4050 Local 4110
Website: https://www.msuiit.edu.ph/academics/colleges/cass/about/index.php

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Dear Students,

Thank you for choosing MSU-Iligan Institute of Technology as the school for your graduate studies. We hope that we will be able to help you in achieving your goals in your pursuit of knowledge.

It is in the 2nd Semester AY 2014-2015 that the Office of Graduate Studies instituted the submission of a concept paper as an admission requirement for all graduate programs.

Below are frequently asked questions which may help you realize the importance of a concept paper as you embark on your graduate studies.

- **What is a concept paper?**

A concept paper is a summary written a by students embarking on research to gather and present preliminary ideas: to review a field of study, state a research question, identify methods, and indicate the significance of a line of research, often including a budget and timeline. It tells the reader what the research is, why it is important and how it will be carried out. Interestingly enough, even Wikipedia defines a concept paper as a requirement submitted to a university's graduate program for admission.

- **Why is a concept paper important?**

A concept paper can be considered as a research plan. When a student enters a graduate program with a clear research interest in mind, it helps him/her stay focused in his/her studies. The concept paper enables the student to choose an adviser at the onset of his/her studies which will help him/her establish a longer professional relationship with his/her mentor, allow him/her longer time in discussing the direction and future plans (most probably publication) of his/her research and suits the requirements of his/her courses according to the demands of his/her research. The best advantage of requiring a concept paper at the onset is that it helps the student graduate on time, if not earlier.

- **Will a student be denied of an admission on the basis of his/her concept paper?**

The purpose of requiring a concept paper during admission is for the department to assess the research potential of a student. It is also to guide him/her in his research plans. If the concept paper needs improvement, then the Department will assign a professor to help the student to enhance it. A student's admission documents include the concept paper.

- **How long should a concept paper be?**

The length of a concept paper varies. It may be 2-3 pages long or even longer. Different academic programs have different requirements. For your convenience however, the Office has come up with a template which will guide you in writing your concept paper. You may download the form from our website. Please go to this link: http://www.msuiit.edu.ph/academics/schools/sgs/resources/index.php

I hope this helps you in writing your concept paper. We wish you all the best in your graduate studies. Please do not hesitate to visit the SIS Office if you have any concerns and problems.

Yours,

Prof. Alita T. Roxas
Acting Dean, School of Graduate Studies

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CONCEPT PAPER TEMPLATE[1]

Proposed Title of Research Interest Social Media Use and Reading Engagement Among Generation Z
Area of Study (Field of Specialization) **Sustainable Development Studies** **Specialization:**
Background of the Study (What have you read that has had an impact on your thinking about the topic?)
Statement of the Problem (as far as you are aware of, what is the gap of knowledge in your research interest based on readings/existing literatures? Why does this research need to be conducted? What is the demographic profile of Gen Z respondents in Naawan in terms of age, daily social media hours, and preferred reading formats? What is the level of reading engagement among Gen Z in terms of frequency, attention span, and comprehension? Is there a significant relationship between social media engagement intensity and the reading engagement levels of Gen Z?
Objectives of the SSpecific Objective **Research Locale and Respondents (Where will the study be conducted? Who will be the target respondents?)** **Locale: Municipality of Naawan** **Respondents:**

[1] Adapted and modified from Kenyatta University Graduate School Post Graduate Concept Paper Template. Accessed at 01 June 2015
http://www.ku.ac.ke/schools/graduate/images/stories/docs/concept_paper_template_postgrad_students.pdf

Literature Review: (What literature do you intend to review and why? Five for MA/MS students and at least 10 for PhD/Doctorate students)
Proposed Methods/Procedures (This answers the question: How will you conduct the study?)
References (Please use the APA Style of Citation; follow this link for the format:

Note: You may use additional sheet/s if necessary. Must be computer-encoded and in A4 sized bond paper.