

Evaluation of Thesis Research Proposal for Master of Science in Biology

Instructions:

1. Page 1 is to be completed by the student or the Committee Chairman prior to the proposal.
2. One copy of pages 2 through 4 are to be completed by the committee at the end of the proposal while the student is outside of room during the committee's deliberation. This form must be completed even if the committee determines that the proposal is unacceptable. Do not write the student's name on pages 2-4.
3. Copies (pages 1-4) should be provided to the chair of the committee, the advisor (if not the same person as the chair), the student, and the Graduate Coordinator. The Graduate Coordinator will place a copy in the student's file in the Biology office.
4. The student should review the evaluation with the committee at the end of the proposal or with the advisor at a later date.

Student

Date of Defense

Advisor

Proposal Title

Semester admitted

Thesis Committee

Name

Department

Chair:

Please check the following that apply.

- Thesis/Graduate Project submitted to ETD
- Student is Fully Classified. If not, list remaining conditions required and dates when conditions will be met.

Proposal Evaluation Table for Biology MS

(Check the cell below the ranking that best describes the student's performance for each of the attributes listed in the first column)

Attribute	Very Deficient	Somewhat Deficient	Acceptable	Very Good	Outstanding
1. Proposal completed in timely manner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed after 3rd semester 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed in 3rd semester 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed by start of 3rd semester 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed by end of 2nd semester 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed within 6 months of start of program
2. Contribution to field of study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficult to find originality Proposal is more aligned with a BS project rather than MS project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Little originality Mostly pedantic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates some originality Some limited contributions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Original and creative At least one important contribution for an MS thesis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Original and creative Several important contributions for an MS thesis
3. Knowledge of Field of study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient knowledge of literature relevant to area of research. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Familiar with and/or has cited some key literature, but clearly needs to read more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Familiar with and/or has cited most key literature relevant to area of research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal demonstrates a thorough review of the key literature relevant to area of research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal demonstrates a thorough review of key literature relevant to area of research Demonstration or awareness of literature beyond immediate area of study
4. Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed methods as described are inadequate in meeting objective of study Unaware of suitable methods or technologies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed methods may be adequate but not as described Vaguely aware of suitable methods or technologies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed methods are adequate for meeting objective of study Demonstrates awareness of suitable methods or technologies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed methods includes the most currently accepted technologies for meeting objective of study Evidence of training or experience in applying methods to collecting/analyzing data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed methods includes creative use or development of modern methods or technologies to meet objective of study Demonstrates awareness of modern and emerging technologies in the field Conducted preliminary study demonstrating skill and suitability of methods

Attribute	Very Deficient	Somewhat Deficient	Acceptable	Very Good	Outstanding
5. Quality of Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires major revisions. Sentence structure, language, and style are deficient. should seek writing assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing needs some improvement Numerous typos and grammatical errors Somewhat difficult to follow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acceptable writing (25th to 75th percentile) Some minor editorial changes required (grammatical and spelling) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very well written Easy to understand Minimal editorial changes required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing quality is consistent with that found in high profile scientific publications
6. Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unorganized Lack of flow in logic Unable to answer many questions Bluffed answers to questions rather than admitting not knowing the answer Slides/handouts poor quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation requires some reorganization Some rambling, too much time spent on less important aspects Some slides/handouts not clear Distracting typos and errors Difficulty answering with some questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slides/handouts clear Presentation skills good Most questions answered competently 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional presentation Nearly all questions answered knowledgably and respectfully 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well organized and professional Slides/handouts outstanding All questions answered knowledgably and respectfully.
7. Quality of Proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not acceptable Student not prepared to begin research for MS thesis Major revision of written proposal must be prepared in timeline specified by committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deficient in many areas Proposed research shows potential for an acceptable MS thesis. Proposed research may be difficult to publish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within 25th to 75th percentile of proposals Proposed research will most likely lead to an acceptable MS thesis with potential for publishing in relevant journals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Among 10th to 25th percentile of proposals Proposed research will most likely lead to a high-quality MS thesis with potential for publishing in a high-quality journal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Among top 10% of proposals Without doubt, proposed research will successfully lead to a high-quality MS thesis with high potential for publication(s) in top-tier journals in relevant field

Comments and Reasons for Noted Deficiencies: