

RESEARCH PROPOSAL EXAM EVALUATION FORM

Student name: _____

Exam Date: _____

Evaluation of the Written Document

1. What is the potential for the proposed work to advance knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields?
2. To what extent does the proposed work suggest and explore creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts?
3. To what extent does the research plan have clear goals and objectives? Does the introductory material logically lead to the research problem to be addressed? Are the basis and rationale for the experimental/computational/theoretical approach clear?
4. Is the plan for carrying out the proposed work well-reasoned, well-organized, and based on a sound rationale? Does the plan incorporate a mechanism to assess success and ways to address potential challenges?
5. To what extent are the methods appropriate to the research questions/problems being addressed? Does the student exhibit a sufficient grasp of the methodology to be used and how it will contribute to the research plan?
6. Will this research plan produce an acceptable Ph.D. dissertation?
7. Are sections, paragraphs, and sentences clearly written and free of ambiguity? Is proper grammar, punctuation, spelling, and capitalization used? Are literature sources appropriately and correctly cited?
8. Is the document formatted correctly? Are the figures, illustration, tables and schemes used by the student legible, clearly annotated, and appropriately described in the text? To what extent do the figures/schemes used by the student help to effectively communicate the key points of the document?

Please, give score as following: 5 (Excellent) - Outstanding proposal in all respects; 4 (Very Good) - High quality proposal in nearly all respects; 3 (Good) - A quality proposal; 2 (Fair) - Proposal lacking in one or more critical aspects; key issues need to be addressed; 1 (Poor) - Proposal has serious deficiencies. NOTE: Research Advisor is NOT giving a score.

Committee member #1	Committee member #2	Committee member #3	Committee member #4	Total score

17-20: proposal is exemplary and the student has passed the written portion of the Oral Exam; 13-16: revisions are required; 9-12: major revisions are required; 4-8: proposal has numerous and serious deficiencies and must be completely rewritten, Proposal Exam will be postponed.

Evaluation of the Proposal Exam

Did the student:

1. demonstrate sufficient knowledge of the relevant literature and its critical analysis?
2. present creative, original, or potentially transformative ideas?
3. present a well-reasoned and well-organized research plan including a sound rationale, mechanisms to assess success and ways to address potential challenges?
4. discuss his/her proposed work and answer questions at a level sufficient to proceed towards a Ph.D.?

Please, give score as following: 5 (Excellent) - all of the above questions can be answered in a strongly affirmative manner; 4 (Very Good) - most of the above questions can be answered in a strongly affirmative manner; 3 (Good) - most of the above questions can be answered in an affirmative manner; 2 (Fair) - the student showed deficiencies related to several of the above questions; 1 (Poor) - the student showed deficiencies related to most of the above questions. NOTE: Research Advisor is NOT giving a score.

Committee member #1	Committee member #2	Committee member #3	Committee member #4	Total score

Combined exam score: _____

_ Pass (combined score of 31-40): The student's proposal has been determined to be sufficient; the Committee will recommend that this student be admitted to Ph.D. candidacy.

_ Conditional Pass (combined score of 21-30): The student's proposal is largely satisfactory. However, the Committee has found that certain deficiencies must first be addressed prior to admission to Ph.D. candidacy. The Committee recommends that the student rewrite the Proposal or its portions. The student is not required to retake the Proposal Exam.

Further requirements and comments:

_ Not Pass (combined score of 17-20): The student's proposal is fair but not satisfactory for admission to Ph.D. candidacy. The Committee recommends the student repeat the Proposal Exam a final time. See Handbook for detailed instructions.

_ Fail (combined score of 13-16): The student has not presented a satisfactory proposal and cannot be recommended for admission to Ph.D. candidacy.