

Thesis Evaluation Rubric

	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Below Expectations	Unsatisfactory
1) Mastery of Theory and Concepts	<p>Mastery of subject area</p> <p>Previous literature presented with keen insights</p> <p>Discussion is well-motivated</p>	<p>Good understanding of subject area</p> <p>Previous literature presented accurately</p> <p>Some motivation present</p>	<p>Limited understanding of subject area</p> <p>Partially incorrect presentation of previous literature</p> <p>Little motivation</p>	<p>Limited understanding of subject area</p> <p>Little or no discussion of previous literature</p> <p>No motivation</p>
2) Mathematical Sophistication	<p>Highly advanced mathematical concepts</p> <p>Free from mathematical errors</p>	<p>Graduate level mathematical concepts</p> <p>Only insignificant mathematical errors</p>	<p>Mathematical concepts of limited sophistication</p> <p>Some significant errors</p>	<p>Largely trivial mathematical concepts</p> <p>Many mathematical errors</p>
3) Originality and Significance	<p>Highly original results, proofs, and/or discussion</p> <p>Original content highly relevant with transformative potential</p> <p>Strong potential for publication</p>	<p>Contains original results, proofs, and/or discussion</p> <p>Original content relevant for larger community</p> <p>Potential for publication</p>	<p>Limited original contributions</p> <p>Limited outside interest in thesis contributions</p>	<p>No original contributions</p> <p>Thesis irrelevant for larger community</p>
4) Quality of Writing	<p>No grammatical or spelling errors</p> <p>Clear objectives, statements, & theorems</p> <p>Organization contributes to understanding</p> <p>Publication quality</p> <p>Effective use of examples</p>	<p>Few grammatical or spelling errors</p> <p>Mostly clear objectives, statements, & theorems</p> <p>Organization adequate</p> <p>Writing style largely appropriate</p> <p>Mostly effective use of examples</p>	<p>Noticeable grammatical and spelling errors</p> <p>Some clear objectives, statements, & theorems</p> <p>Organization somewhat lacking</p> <p>Style could use revision</p> <p>Few examples</p>	<p>Full of grammatical and spelling errors</p> <p>Objectives, statements, & theorems unclear</p> <p>Poor organization</p> <p>Writing sloppy</p> <p>No examples</p>

Defense Evaluation Rubric

	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Below Expectations	Unsatisfactory
5) Presentation Content	Well adapted to format Full topic mastery Deep topics conveyed in a lucid manner	Clear background and context Fills allotted time Information is accurate Deep topics attempted	Little or no motivation Low level The beginnings of ideas are explored	Main topic not introduced Cluttered with irrelevant facts Trivial or superficial
6) Presentation Organization	Original elements used to transmit information Ideas well sequenced and narrative is clear Compelling opening	Clear connections Logical flow Jargon avoided Topic is related to wider context	Unclear connections Identifiable beginning, middle and end Main concepts hidden behind jargon	No sequencing List of definitions and results No central theme Unclear relations
7) Speaking Skills	Poised, clear, articulate Enthusiastic, confident Audience is engaged Controlled unveiling of material	Full eye contact Rehearsed but lacks some polish Audible from back row	Some eye contact Speaker unaware which slide is next Unrehearsed Use of slang	Too fast No eye contact Unprofessional conduct Too quiet, mumbling
8) Visual Aids	Slides/boardwork is visually appealing Contributes to understanding of topic Well executed	Few errors or typos Easy to follow Competently executed and supports thesis topic	Some errors or typos Wordy with little insight Convey only basic information	No aids used Many grammar errors Confusing or inappropriate Sloppily executed
9) Response to Questioning	Connects to bigger picture Demonstrates expertise on thesis topic	Mostly correct answers with little prompting Clear understanding of subject matter	Many answers incomplete without further prompting Only basic understanding of subject matter	Unable to answer most questions Little understanding of subject matter