Biological Sciences Department

Rubric for Assessing MS Thesis Proposal

Name of MS Candidate: _____

Name of Evaluator: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

| Criterion | 1--------------------2-------------------3---------------------4----------------------5 | | | Score |
	Poor		Excellent	
Literature review of chosen field Knowledge	Shallow, mistaken, containing large gaps, incorrectly cited	Appropriate coverage, accurately represented.	Extensive, synthetic, commanding, shows deep understanding.	
Scientific merit of proposed work Critical Thinking Knowledge	Unoriginal, limited potential for publication Narrow, trivial, flawed logic	Useful contribution, shows some creativity and insight	Sophisticated, highly creative, potential for scientific breakthrough	
Intellectual design of proposed work Critical thinking Knowledge	Poorly defined, illogically developed	Testable hypotheses, supported by published and preliminary data	Novel, ambitious, clearly feasible	
Practical design of proposed work Critical thinking	Poorly chosen methods or analyses	Appropriate methods and analyses	Elegant, novel, methods and analyses	
Written proposal Communication Knowledge	Numerous grammatical and spelling errors, poor organization	Adequate attention to grammar, spelling and organization	Clear exposition, near flawless, logically organized.	
Oral presentation Communication Knowledge	Hard to follow, confusing, little learned by audience.	Some organization, lack of coherence, some points clear.	Well organized, engaging, points clearly made and understood.	

Other comments or recommendations: