

## Rubric for the Thesis Advisor's Assessment

The Thesis Advisor's Assessment rubric is primarily intended to guide the advisor's evaluation of the work the student does on the thesis research and writing in both HON 498 *Honors Thesis/Research I* and HON 499 *Honors Thesis/Research II*.

Honors students who complete a thesis defense will be awarded *honors* or *no honors* for their work based on the evaluation of several components: the written document itself (the most weight is given to this), the presentation of the thesis, the oral defense of the thesis, the quality of the Reading List, and the Reading List discussion.

A thesis student is evaluated as *satisfactory* or *unsatisfactory* on the following categories and components. A student who attains *honors* will typically receive a rating of *satisfactory* on each of the dimensions below and on the rubrics corresponding to other facets of the thesis and defense. This is not an inviolable rule. The post-defense discussion should carefully consider the range and pattern of ratings, the rationale behind each committee member's ratings, and the relative importance of each dimension.

The advisor should be sure the student's thesis is satisfactory on the metrics included here and on the [name of the other rubric] before the thesis defense. If the thesis is found to be unsatisfactory overall and not *honors-worthy*, it should not be allowed to go forward and the defense should be postponed. Questions or concerns about this should be directed to the associate dean in Honors ([melissa.ladenheim@maine.edu](mailto:melissa.ladenheim@maine.edu)).

1. Relationship with the advisor:
  - a. Assesses own knowledge, skills, and abilities accurately
  - b. Perseveres toward attaining mutually agreed upon goals
  - c. Displays high standards of attendance and punctuality
  - d. Responds thoughtfully to feedback
  - e. Sets, reflects upon and adjusts priorities in order to balance professionalism
2. Relationship with the project:
  - a. Clearly understands the big picture while attending to the details of the specific project
  - b. Works independently; is a consistent "self-starter"
  - c. Reliably recognizes the existence of a problem, identifies potential causes, and implements possible solutions

- d. Seeks and evaluates information using multiple criteria for topics/issues under consideration
3. Assessment of thesis project:
- a. Originality of the thesis
    - i. Was the thesis idea developed by the student?
    - ii. Does the work done for the thesis represent an original perspective?
  - b. Contribution of the thesis to disciplinary or interdisciplinary scholarship
    - i. Does the thesis introduce new knowledge or analysis?
    - ii. Will the thesis serve to stimulate other research or scholarship?