

Rubric for the Written Thesis

Providing brief comments will give additional feedback to the student as well as inform the post-defense deliberation among committee members.

A student who attains *honors* will typically receive a rating of at least *satisfactory* (4) on each of the dimensions below and on the rubrics connected with 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. Likewise, the ratings of a student who receives *highest honors* are almost always all *outstanding* (6).

1. Research question or creative challenge

Unacceptable		Marginal	Satisfactory		Outstanding
1	2	3	4	5	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unique research question/issue/creative challenge identified• Goals/objectives/hypotheses are explicit• Historical and contemporary contexts, assumptions/biases, or ethical considerations are identified• Thesis presented is within an academic framework					
Comments:					

2. Methodology/approach: development

Unacceptable		Marginal	Satisfactory		Outstanding
1	2	3	4	5	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Methodology/approach is appropriate to disciplinary/interdisciplinary focus• Topic is contextualized among sources and materials cited• Multiple perspectives are considered• Demonstrates understanding of the content, tools, and structures in the field					
Comments:					

3. Methodology/approach: implementation

Unacceptable		Marginal	Satisfactory		Outstanding
1	2	3	4	5	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Quantitative and/or symbolic tools are utilized effectivelyEvidence is sufficient to address the research question and is well utilizedAccuracy and relevance of evidence are appropriately questioned; possible biases are identifiedEvaluates, analyzes, and synthesizes informationDemonstrates understanding of professional standards					
Comments:					

4. Conclusions, implications, and consequences

Unacceptable		Marginal	Satisfactory		Outstanding
1	2	3	4	5	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Conclusions, qualifications, and consequences, including value of thesis, are presentedSignificance of what was discovered, learned, or created is demonstratedAssertions are qualified and well supportedDemonstrates independent and critical thought					
Comments:					

5. Writing

Unacceptable		Marginal	Satisfactory		Outstanding
1	2	3	4	5	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Language clearly and effectively communicates ideasAny errors in grammar, spelling, mechanics, and/or punctuation are minimalOrganization is clear and effectiveSources and citations are used correctly					
Comments:					