

Rubric for the Written Thesis¹

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:					

¹ Adapted, with permission, from the rubric of the Washington State University Honors College.

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 effectively• Evidence is sufficient to address the research question and is well utilized• Accuracy and relevance of evidence are appropriately questioned; possible biases are identified• Evaluates, analyzes, and synthesizes information• Demonstrates 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 presented• Significance of what was discovered, learned, or created is demonstrated• Assertions are qualified and well supported• Demonstrates 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 ideas• Any errors in grammar, spelling, mechanics, and/or punctuation are minimal• Organization is clear and effective• Sources and citations are used correctly					
Comments:					