

Outstanding Thesis/Dissertation Award Rubric

Criteria	Marginal (1-4)	Substantial (5-7)	Outstanding/Exemplary (8-10)	SCORE
Quality of Composition & Organization <i>(Considerations: Thesis/Dissertation Chair and Dept. Chair Feedback)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The research question, purpose, and rationale are not well described and may not flow logically from the research background provided. • The research abstract does not adequately summarize the project • Overall writing is of average quality, with significant room for improvement in clarity and organization. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The research question, purpose, and rationale are clearly described and flow logically from the research background provided • The research abstract provides a clear summary of the project • Overall writing is of above average quality – mostly clear, concise, and organized in a logical manner. Some room for improvement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The research question, purpose, and rationale are excellently described and flow logically from the research background provided • The research abstract provides an excellent summary of the project • Overall writing is of superior quality - clear, concise, convincing, and organized in a logical manner 	
Scholarship Demonstrated <i>(Considerations: Thesis/Dissertation Chair and Dept. Chair Feedback)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project uses standard approaches to research problem, design, and/or outcomes • Methodology used has some flaws or oversights • Data sources are questionable in their appropriateness, reliability, or validity • Data analysis has significant room for improvement • Interpretation of results is questionable or missing key points • Limitations of research and suggestions for future research are not mentioned 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project is moderately creative in approaches to research problem, design, and/or outcomes. • Methodology used is sufficient to investigate the research problem • Data sources are appropriate, reliable, and valid, but may be incomplete; inclusion of other data could have improved the project • Data analysis uses correct procedures, with some room for improvement • Interpretation of results is adequate • Limitations of research and suggestions for future research are not thoroughly discussed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project uses new and creative research problem, design, and/or outcomes • Methodology used is well suited to investigate the research problem • Data sources are appropriate, reliable, valid, and complete • Data analysis utilizes correct procedures • Interpretation of results demonstrates scholarly insights • Limitations of research and suggestions for future research are thoroughly discussed 	
Research Contributions <i>(Considerations: Thesis/Dissertation Chair and Dept. Chair Feedback)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research question and results are appropriate but only an incremental extension of previous work • Research is not likely to lead to any deliverable such as publication, presentation, or other award 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research question and results are significant but may not direct future research in the discipline • Research has or is expected to lead to at least one deliverable, including publication, conference presentation, or external funding proposal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research question and results are timely with potential significant impact on future research in the discipline • Research has or is expected to lead to several deliverables, including publications, conference presentations, or external funding proposals 	
TOTAL SCORE (MAX of 30)				