

**Masters of Science in Biology
Thesis Proposal Defense Evaluation**

Student Name:

Date of Defense:

Proposal Title:

A student pursuing an MS in Biology must defend a proposal of the thesis research in a public forum. The proposal defense must be successfully completed at least one semester prior to the defense of the completed thesis work itself. The time, date and location of the proposal defense should be announced to the public at least one week prior to the defense. It is understood that prior to the oral defense a written document detailing the proposed thesis research would have already been approved by the thesis committee chair as well as members of the thesis committee. After the proposal defense, the thesis committee may recommend minor or major revisions before the written document is accepted. If revisions are required, an outline of the revisions needed and a deadline must be provided to the student in writing by the thesis committee chair.

The defense takes the form of a 20-30 minutes oral presentation by the student followed by a period of questions from the general audience. This is followed immediately by a session attended by only the student and members of the thesis committee, where more in-depth questions may be raised and specific issues discussed.

Members of the thesis committee will evaluate the performance of the oral defense based on the criteria given below, and will assign an overall grade of Satisfactory, Satisfactory with Revisions, or Unsatisfactory. Signatures of all members of the thesis committee on this form are required. A scanned copy of this form will be provided to the student and each committee member, and placed in the file of the student's official records.

1. Overall rationale and significance to the specific area as well as the general field.

2. Completeness of literature reviewed.

3. Experimental design.

4. Appropriateness and understanding of techniques and methods.

5. Understanding of expected or preliminary results or both, and their significance.

6. Feasibility of proposed work in relation to timetable.

Additional comments and recommended or required changes to the written proposal with deadlines:

Overall Grade: Satisfactory / Satisfactory with Revisions / Unsatisfactory (circle one)

Thesis Committee: (Printed name followed by signature and date on the same line for each member.)

Chair: _____

Member: _____

Member: _____

Member: _____