Thesis Evaluation Form for Master of Science in Biology.

Instructions:

1. Page 1 is to be completed by the student or the Committee Chairman prior to the thesis defense.

2. One copy of pages 2 through 4 are to be completed by the committee at the end of the defense while the student is outside of room during the committee's deliberation. **Another copy is to be completed by an external evaluator** selected by the Chair of the Assessment Committee. This form must be completed even if the committee determines that the thesis is unacceptable. Do not write the student's name on pages 2-4.

3. Copies (pages 1-4) of completed evaluations should be provided to the chair of the committee, the advisor (if not the same person as the chair), and the student. Copies of this document (thesis committee's and Assessment Committee member's) and a copy of the abstract page of the thesis are to be placed in the student's file in the Biology office.

4. The student should review the evaluation with the committee at the end of the defense.

Student_____ **Date of Defense**_____

Advisor_____

Thesis Title _____

_____

Semester admitted _____

Thesis Committee

Name	Department
_____(chair)	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Complete the following that apply.

- Student has been accepted (____yes ____no) or intends to apply to a PhD program or medical school
- Student has accepted a job at _____or will continue on for a PhD at _____
- Work from this thesis has been submitted for publication to_____ _____
- Citation(s) for accepted or published paper(s) arising from thesis (advisors need to update this form as future publications arise) _____

_____

_____

Thesis Evaluation Table for Biology MS ☐ **Thesis Committee** ☐ **Assessment Committee**

(Circle the cell below the ranking that best describes the student's performance for each of the attributes listed in the first column)

Attribute	Very Deficient	Somewhat Deficient	Acceptable	Very Good	Outstanding
1. Thesis completed in timely manner	• Completed after 5 years	• Completed after 3rd or 4th year	• Completed within 3 years	• Completed within 2.5 years of beginning of program	• Completed within 24 months of beginning of program
2. Contribution to field of study	• Difficult to find originality • Thesis is more aligned with a BS project rather than MS project	• Little originality • Mostly pedantic	• Demonstrates some originality • Some limited contributions.	• Original and creative • At least one important contribution for an MS thesis	• Original and creative • Several important contributions for an MS thesis
3. Knowledge of Field of study	• Insufficient knowledge of literature relevant to area of research.	• Familiar with and/or has cited some key literature, but clearly needs to read more	• Familiar with and/or has cited most key literature relevant to area of research	• Thesis demonstrates a thorough review of the key literature relevant to area of research	• thesis demonstrates a thorough review of key literature relevant to area of research • demonstration or awareness of literature beyond immediate area of study
4. Methodology	• methods were inadequate in meeting objective of study • Unaware of suitable methods or technologies	• methods may be adequate but not as executed • Vaguely aware of suitable methods or technologies	• methods were adequate for meeting objective of study • Demonstrates awareness or skill in suitable methods or technologies	• methods are current and accepted technologies for meeting objective of study • Demonstrates awareness of current methods and technologies • Evidence of specialized skill in methods and technologies for collection or analysis of data	• Demonstrates creative development or execution of methods or technologies in meeting objective of study • Demonstrates knowledge of modern and emerging technologies in the field • Highly skilled in applying modern methods and technologies for collection or analysis of data

Attribute	Very Deficient	Somewhat Deficient	Acceptable	Very Good	Outstanding
5. Quality of Writing	• Requires major revisions. • Sentence structure, language, and style are deficient. • Student should seek writing assistance	• Writing needs some improvement • Numerous typos and grammatical errors • Somewhat difficult to follow in areas	• Acceptable writing (25th to 75th percentile) • Some minor editorial changes required (grammatical and spelling)	• Very well written • Easy to understand • Minimal editorial changes required	• Writing quality is consistent with that found in high profile scientific publications
6. Presentation	• Unorganized • Lack of flow in logic • Unable to answer many questions • Bluffed answers to questions rather than admitting not knowing the answer • Slides/handouts poor quality	• Presentation requires some reorganization • Some rambling, too much time spent on less important aspects • Some slides/handouts not clear • Distracting typos and errors • Difficulty answering with some questions	• Slides/handouts clear • Presentation skills good • Most questions answered competently	• Professional presentation • Nearly all questions answered knowledgably and respectively	• Well organized and professional • Slides/handouts outstanding • All questions answered knowledgably and respectively.
7. Quality of Thesis	• Not acceptable • Work is not publishable in a peer-reviewed publication	• Deficient in many areas • Proposed research may be difficult to publish • Mostly likely published in a refereed conference proceeding	• Within 25^{th} to 75^{th} percentile of theses • Should be able to publish a paper in a recognized journal	• Among 10^{th} to 25^{th} percentile of theses • At least one significant publication in a high quality peer reviewed journal will result	• Among top 10% of theses • At least one significant publication in one of the top journals in the field or multiple significant publications in high quality journals will result
8. Post-graduation prospects	• Student should consider a career outside of biology	• Student should seek employment in a non-research oriented career in field	• Likely to have successful career in field with MS	• Likely to be in the top 25% of applicants for jobs/positions in research and applied biological sciences	• Likely to be in the top 10% of applicants for jobs/positions in research and applied biological sciences

Comments and Reasons for Noted Deficiencies: