

	1 - Unacceptable	2 - Acceptable	3 - Very Good	4 - Outstanding	N/A
Introduction/Statement of the Problem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not show sufficient knowledge to state problem or goal of research Provides no motivation Displays a clear lack of mastery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Justifies the work but lacks depth Provides the minimum context for the work Show only a limited perspective on the field 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motivates the work Ties topic to immediately relevant areas of student's specialization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies important problem(s) Builds connections to other scientific issues 	
Grounding in the Literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incomplete, does not cite historically key or scientifically relevant works Does not provide a context for the dissertation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not put literature in the right context Does not adequately understand the cited papers or their implications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discriminates between important & informative papers vs. unimportant & uninformative ones Comprehensive, written at the appropriate depth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive, thorough, up to date Explains the significance and implications of the cited works Provides detailed examples of existing methods and discusses their relevance 	
Methodology/Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absent, misinterpreted, or not relevant Inadequate detail Not relevant to the experiment Lacks clear scientific deductive thinking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses theory properly & correctly Demonstrates student's understanding of theory Precise and complete enough so others can replicate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete Novel ways to use existing techniques Identifies why the method was chosen and understands its limitations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Innovative, new concepts or new mathematical or statistical applications, implications that go beyond the specific situation Precisely describes how data were handled or what mathematical steps were taken Underlying assumptions are thoroughly portrayed 	
Results/Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results are not presented in a succinct and informative way Inappropriate or incompetent analysis of the data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyzes the data in a clear-cut fashion Assesses the data objectively and with integrity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis is appropriate & sophisticated Results are associated with the problem Contains a thorough assessment of data quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Novel insights connected to the hypotheses Strong statistical foundation Innovative analytical methods Documentation supports the precision, accuracy and reliability of the results 	
Discussion/Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inadequate Does not understand the results Does not discuss the implications of the work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summarizes the dissertation Conclusions are consistent with the results Limited discussion of the significance or implications of the research Limited understanding of possible criticism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discusses possible applications and future directions Addresses either experimental/observational or theoretical implications Anticipates criticism but does not fully address it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Realizes the important, significance, & implications of the work from both an experimental/observational and theoretical standpoints Discusses future directions & broader impacts Anticipates and successfully addresses criticism 	
Quality of Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor writing with rampant grammatical errors that impede understanding, unorganized and confusing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate writing Grammatical mistakes but not so many as to impede understanding Minimal discussion of how elements relate to broader topic of dissertation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good writing Few grammatical mistakes Organized in a way that makes it clear how the different components tie together 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceptionally well written Flawless grammar Well organized with a logical flow that enhances the meaning of the individual components when viewed as a whole 	

Total: 0