



# Thesis/Dissertation Proposal

*Committee must complete the grading rubric on pg. 2*

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID #: \_\_\_\_\_

MS Thesis  PhD Dissertation Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Projected Date of Completion: \_\_\_\_\_

**To be completed by the Committee Members upon review and approval.**

*The proposal of the above named student has been reviewed. It is the opinion of the committee members that: the proposal is of sufficient merit to be conducted by the student; and the design of the study is of sufficient clarity and merit to allow the student to proceed with the study under the direction of the committee chairperson.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Chairperson Name Approval (Email or Signature) Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Member Name Approval (Email or Signature) Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Member Name Approval (Email or Signature) Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Member Name Approval (Email or Signature) Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Member Name Approval (Email or Signature) Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Member Name Approval (Email or Signature) Date

**To be completed by the Program Director upon review and approval.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date



## Grading Rubric for Proposal Defense

<b>Student Name:</b>	<b>Graduate Marine &amp; Atmospheric Science</b>	<b>School Code: GRMS</b>
<b>UM ID:</b>	<b>Major:</b>	
<b>Rating of Proposal Defense</b>	<b>Degree Level:</b>	<b>Date:</b>

	Rating Scale and Explanations					Rating 1-5 (from scale to left)
	1 = Unacceptable	2 = Poor	3 = Average/Acceptable	4 = Very Good	5 = Exceptional	
<b>Knowledge of the Discipline</b>	Error(s) in exposition of the field and/or omission of key source(s)	Minor errors, omissions, and/or lack of synthesis	Adequate and accurate exposition of key sources	Good coverage and synthesis of key sources plus additional relevant material	Thorough review and excellent synthesis of sources, including some obscure but relevant ones	
<b>Appropriate Methodology</b>	Errors in methodology selection and/or use	Minor methodological errors and/or omissions	Methodology applied correctly and adequately; appropriate documentation	Methodology applied correctly, explained clearly, and documented well	Mastery of finer points of methodology plus elegant application and/or supplementary approaches	
<b>Application of Knowledge and Methodology to Original Research Topic</b>	Discipline and methodology not referenced/applied well	Some links to discipline knowledge and methodology but not clearly integrated with research	Adequate connection between knowledge of discipline and use of methodology and research	Clear exposition of relationship of disciplinary knowledge and methodology to original research	Insightful references to sources and application of methodology to excellent research topic	
<b>Critical Thinking</b>	Muddled presentation with errors in reasoning and/or without much analysis and synthesis	Reasoning sometimes confused, simplistic, and/or not clearly explained	Adequate reasoning, explanation of assumptions, and supporting evidence	Clear reasoning with organized presentation of evidence, assumptions, and conclusions	Clear and organized argument that represents sound, original, and complex thought	
<b>Effective Written Communication</b>	Writing generally unclear, with consistent errors and/or poor organization	Writing sometimes unclear with weak organization and/or grammatical errors	Writing clear, concise, and organized, with minor or no grammatical errors	Writing generally error-free with clear organization and depth	Elegant writing with fully developed arguments, clear organization, and correct grammar	
<b>Effective Oral Communication</b>	Presentation generally unclear, with poor organization and/or marred by distracting mannerisms or language	Presentation sometimes unclear, with weak organization, and/or some distracting mannerisms or language	Presentation organized to convey main points of thesis/dissertation clearly and without distractions	Articulate presentation with clear organization and professional language	Elegant, confident, and engaging presentation with clear organization and flow	
<b>Overall Quality</b> (not necessarily average of earlier ratings)	Unacceptable	Poor	Average/Acceptable	Very Good	Exceptional	

**Comments:**

**University of Miami  
Rosenstiel School of Marine,  
Atmospheric, and Earth Science**