



**Department of Geography and Geoinformation Science  
College of Science**

4400 University Drive, MS 6C3, Fairfax, Virginia 22030  
Phone: 703-993-1210, Fax: 703-993-9299

**MASTERS THESIS EVALUATION FORM**

Please check one: MS-ESS

☐

MS-GECA

☐

MS-GEOINT

☐

This form is for the evaluation of the thesis and the evaluation results will be used for academic review of the corresponding MS program.

**Student:** Please fill the information before Part 2 and submit the partially completed form to your committee chair before the defense.

**STUDENT NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **G#** \_\_\_\_\_

**DEFENSE DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 2. Evaluation by the committee:** Please rate the thesis with the following four (4) categories with Excellent, Satisfactory, or Fair (see attached guideline on next page).

Category	Rating		Category	Rating
1. Quality			3. Writing	
2. Methods			4. Oral	

**Thesis Committee**

\_\_\_\_\_  
MEMBER & AFFILIATION

\_\_\_\_\_  
(SIGNATURE)

\_\_\_\_\_  
MEMBER & AFFILIATION

\_\_\_\_\_  
(SIGNATURE)

\_\_\_\_\_  
MEMBER & AFFILIATION

\_\_\_\_\_  
(SIGNATURE)

\_\_\_\_\_  
COMMITTEE CHAIR & AFFILIATION

\_\_\_\_\_  
(SIGNATURE)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Student/Committee Chair:** please submit the completed form with signatures to the GGS Department Office. The signature by the Department Chair indicates the receipt of this form. The department chair will not sign the thesis signature page until this form is completed and received by GGS.

**Department Chair:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(SIGNATURE)

### Guideline for the Rating of MS Theses

This rating is required for obtaining the department level signatures on a thesis. The department needs to collect the data for the academic review purpose only. The following rubrics is for your reference only on rating in the four required categories.

Category	Excellent	Satisfactory	Fair
Student demonstrates the capability to conduct research with relatively high quality (Quality)	The research topic is a current topic in the corresponding research area. The work (data/methods/conclusions) are outstanding.	The research topic is an interesting topic in the corresponding research area although may not be current. The work is solid.	The research topic is valid but not of value for science or the topic is not relevant with the target program. The work is fair.
Student demonstrate capability to use methods commonly in research in STEM fields (Methods)	Correctly used current (or optimal) methods for data collection, retrieval, data analysis, simulation, etc.	Correctly used existing methods for data collection, retrieval, data analysis, simulation, etc.	Methods are used vaguely without fully understanding the methods.
Student's written thesis is clear, organized and of relatively high quality (Written Research Communication)	Concise and precise introduction, science question(s), supporting materials, and conclusions; all logically connected. All displays (references) are legible (traceable).	Clear idea(s) and related discussion. May have too much non-essential materials loosely related to the main idea(s). Some displays may not be fully legible. Helped for grammar and spelling issues.	Not fully coherent description of the main ideas. Sometimes, the materials are hard to understand. Materials may not be well organized around the main idea(s). Help from the committee went far over than simple grammar issue.
Student demonstrates capability for research communication during oral thesis defense (Oral Research Communication)	Clearly and logically described all the major components. Addressed the questions concisely and effectively.	Clearly described the major idea. May miss a component such as results for supporting conclusions. Can answer the raised questions.	The presentation cannot be easily understood by colleagues (students of the same level with sufficient knowledge) due to illogical description. May miss certain important components. Can only partially answer one or more questions.