

RUBRIC FOR PROPOSALS

Date _____

Task Description: Describe the research proposed for your dissertation. Briefly review the background of the field, state the goals, aims or hypotheses of your research, showing how the research is important and addresses unknown questions. Explain your experimental /computational methodology, and describe preliminary results demonstrating the feasibility of completing the research. **A score of 9 out of 15 is considered a passing score.**

Dimension	Excellent (4-5 points)	Competent (2-3 pts)	Needs work (0-1 pt)
WRITING 33%	Ideas and description are well organized into paragraphs with good topic sentences. Paragraphs are logically ordered, with good transitions between paragraphs and between topics. Sentences are clearly understandable.	Some paragraphs contain a mix of different topics. Paragraphs are not always related to prior or following paragraphs, or transitions between paragraphs are poor. Sentences are somewhat understandable.	Most paragraphs contain a mix of different topics, and descriptions of single topics are scattered throughout multiple paragraphs. Paragraphs have no logical order. Sentences are unintelligible.
CONTENT - background 33%	Student has identified a highly significant question in neuroscience. Goals of research are clearly stated. Displays superior knowledge and understanding of prior research in the field.	Student has identified a somewhat significant question in neuroscience. Goals of research are stated vaguely. Displays basic knowledge and understanding of prior research in the field.	Significance of question to be addressed is uncertain. Goals of research are unclear. Unaware or confused about several areas of prior research.
CONTENT - plan 33%	Research Plan is well designed to address the question or hypothesis; it includes appropriate controls. Preliminary results demonstrate the feasibility of the research, and shows mastery of the techniques to be used. Proposed analysis is clearly explained, and demonstrates superior understanding of statistical tests.	Research Plan approaches or partly addresses the question or hypothesis; controls are included, but not sufficient. Preliminary results demonstrate understanding of the techniques to be used. Analysis plan demonstrates moderate understanding of statistical tests.	Research Plan is poorly designed - it will not address the question or hypothesis; no controls are included. No or minimal preliminary results. Incorrect or missing explanation of how results will be analyzed.

Score (0 to 5 points for each dimension): _____ out of 15

Student _____ Examiner _____