

Proposal Rubric

Category	0	1	3	5
Letters of Recommendation	Inadequate letters of recommendation or no letters of recommendation – 2 required	Letters of Recommendation which reflect an individual who is a solid student but does not address scholarly potential – 2 letters required	Letters of Recommendation which reflect an individual who has not clearly addressed scholarly potential – 2 letters required	Letters of Recommendation which reflect an individual with excellent potential to develop into a researcher/scholar – 2 letters required
Cover Sheet/Page	Not included or does not include pertinent information (Researcher Name, Mentor, Institution, Classification, GPA, Title of Project, Project Costs)			Included and has all pertinent information (Researcher Name, Mentor, Institution, Classification, GPA, Title of Project, Project Costs)
Abstract	No abstract or an abstract that was lacking essential elements, such as, a purpose statement or indication of population to be studied. Exceeds 1-page	An abstract that is somewhat unclear about the purpose and methods and left major points of emphasis. Exceeds 1-page	An abstract that is somewhat clear about the purpose and methods but left out a few minor points of emphasis. Adheres to 1-page limit	An abstract which clearly informs the reader on the purpose and methodology to be used in the study. Adheres to 1-page limit
Research Strategy	Short and not well developed. Difficult to understand background of research idea. <i>Specific Aims:</i> vague Research Strategy: not well developed or clear <i>Significance:</i> not well developed or clear <i>Innovation:</i> not well developed or clear <i>Approach:</i> not well developed or clear Did not adhere to the five page maximum	Somewhat unclear and not well developed. General direction is provided, but needs more clarity. <i>Specific Aims:</i> Somewhat clear but lacks proper research support or has major issues <i>Significance:</i> Somewhat clear but lacks proper research support or has major issues <i>Innovation:</i> Somewhat clear but lacks proper research support or has major issues <i>Approach:</i> Somewhat clear but lacks proper research support or has major issues	Somewhat clear and fairly well developed; with a few points that are unclear or not well supported by past research. <i>Specific Aims:</i> Somewhat clear and supported by research, with a few minor issues <i>Significance:</i> Somewhat clear and supported by research, with a few minor issues <i>Innovation:</i> Somewhat clear and supported by research, with a few minor issues <i>Approach:</i> Somewhat clear and supported by research, with a few minor issues	Very clearly explained and thorough; with excellent support from past research <i>Specific Aims:</i> Very clear and supported by research, with no/few issues <i>Significance:</i> Very clear and supported by research, with a no/few issues <i>Innovation:</i> Very clear and supported by research, with a no/few issues <i>Approach:</i> Very clear and supported by research, with a no/few issues

Budget	Inadequate information in the budget to justify the costs or the inclusion of items specifically indicated as not covered (printing, travel, salary/stipends, tuition and fees)	Somewhat detailed budget with incomplete justification of all costs and raises several questions as to the feasibility of completion	Detailed budget that is mostly clear, with minor issues and/or raises questions as to the feasibility of completion	A detailed budget with complete justification for all costs
Cover Letter	Does not highlight academic and/or professional accomplishments	Provides unclear and/or vague academic and/or professional accomplishments	Provides somewhat clear academic and/or professional accomplishments	Very clear and detailed description of academic and/or professional accomplishments
Quality of Writing	Writing was ineffective/unclear	Writing was satisfactory but quality of scientific inquiry was lacking	Satisfactory writing and scientific inquiry the quality of which would be expected of students at this level	Satisfactory writing and a quality of scientific inquiry which distinguishes the candidate from other students at this level
Novelty / Contribution to the field	Study is a repeat of previous studies with no changes in methodology compared to previous research.	Study is a repeat of previous studies with minor changes that would not have much effect on previous findings.	Study is a repeat of previous studies with minor changes that could possibly have an effect on previous findings. (e.g., evaluating hormones during exercise in females using a protocol previously performed only on males)	Study addresses a question in a way that is unique or expands upon previous research in a way that adds to our understanding of the topic.