Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Research

1. Intellectual merit
   - Does proposal have clear and specific research question?
   - Has student demonstrated engagement with scholarly literature on the topic?
   - Does he/she make a compelling argument for why their research question should be investigated?

2. Research design/method
   - Is the method appropriate for the research question?
   - Has the student clearly outlined the activities he/she will undertake for collecting data or reinterpreting existing data or theory?
   - Is the time frame sufficient to carry out the proposed research activity?

3. Researcher’s credentials
   - Has student taken course(s) that may be related to proposed research?
   - Has student discussed proposed project with a faculty mentor, and is that faculty member willing to serve as advisor?
   - Is the faculty mentor’s teaching or research interests sufficiently connected with applicant’s project?
   - If student has had research methods/lab course but has not done research outside of the assigned coursework before:
     - has student discussed proposed project with a faculty mentor, and is that faculty member willing to serve as advisor?

4. Researcher’s goals
   - Does student discuss how proposed research relates to and/or advances his/her academic plans?

5. Presenting and Publishing plan
   - Does student have a plan to present research findings (campus, regional, national, or international forums)?
   - Does student have a plan to publish research findings (campus journals and/or professional disciplinary journals), either as first author or co-author?

6. Budget
   - Does the student adequately explain and justify the project’s costs?
   - Is the budget large enough to accomplish the applicant’s goals?
   - Is there evidence that the applicant has compared prices to improve the project’s cost-effectiveness?
Creative Endeavors

1. What is the art being produced (film, poetry, literature, design, etc.)?
2. How does this project advance our understanding of the art or the subject of the art?
3. What scholarship is the production of art grounded in?
   - social science/scientific theories; literary criticism
   - theories about art form
   - history
   - influence of artists (e.g., the auteur in film) or collectors
4. Does applicant seem to have requisite artistic skill/talent to carry out the proposed project?
5. Are the costs of the project commensurate with the project’s scope?

Conference Presentation

1. Is conference a scholarly venue (i.e., professional, disciplinary)?
2. How will this benefit the student’s academic/career plans?
3. Will a faculty member also attend?
4. Are the transportation, accommodation and food costs reasonable for the length of the stay and location?

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<tr>
<th>Rankings</th>
<th>Conference Presentation</th>
<th>Research</th>
<th>Senior Thesis Research</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 – Excellent</td>
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<td>2 - Very good</td>
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<td>3 – Good</td>
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<td>4 – Fair</td>
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<tr>
<th>Decision</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Maybe (up for discussion)</th>
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