Department of Chemistry Research Proposal Rubric

Student Name: **Exam Date:**

Committee: 1.   (chair) 2.

                     3.   4.

	Excellent (4 pts)	Good (3 pts)	Fair (2 pts)	Poor (1 pt)	Score
Research Proposal Format	*The research proposal is well organized and is of appropriate length. The background, significance of the work, related preliminary results (or examples from the literature), broader impacts of the work and a concise summary are all included in the proposal. References are appropriately formatted.*	*The research proposal is well organized and is of appropriate length. References are appropriately formatted. More emphasis should be placed on one or two of the required sections.*	*The organization of the proposal is, in places, confusing and/or the length is not appropriate. References may not be appropriately formatted. One of the required sections is missing or more emphasis should be placed on several of the required sections.*	*The organization of the proposal is confusing and/or the length of the proposal is not appropriate. More than one of the required sections is missing. The references may not be appropriately formatted.*	
Aims/ Objectives	*The proposal aims/objectives are clearly described and provide a logical framework to address a problem. A compelling rationale for the aims/objectives is included.*	*Aims/objectives are described. A rationale for the aims/objectives is included.*	*Aims/objectives are described, however the rationale for the aims/objectives is unclear.*	*The proposal fails to adequately describe the aims/objectives and the rationale for the proposed project is unclear.*	
Background Knowledge	*Demonstrates the ability to apply fundamental concepts to advanced topics in chemistry and in-depth knowledge of the current literature. Correctly identifies and illustrates the importance of unanswered questions in the field and presents the proposal within the context of these questions.*	*Demonstrates sufficient knowledge of the current literature and chemical principles. Correctly identifies and understands the importance of unanswered questions in the field.*	*Demonstrates adequate knowledge of chemical principles and an awareness of the current literature, but does not identify unanswered questions in the field.*	*Demonstrates limited knowledge of chemical principles and the current literature.*	

	Excellent (4 pts)	Good (3 pts)	Fair (2 pts)	Poor (1 pt)	Score
Experimental Approach	*The experimental approach is clearly defined and logical. The expected outcomes are discussed and are plausible. Alternative outcomes have been sufficiently addressed.*	*The experimental approach is clearly defined and logical. The expected outcomes are discussed and are plausible. Alternative outcomes have not been sufficiently addressed.*	*The experimental approach is clearly defined and logical, however the expected outcomes are either not discussed or are not plausible.*	*The experimental approach is neither clearly defined nor logical. The expected outcomes are not discussed.*	
Written Communication	*Writing is consistently clear and conveys the intended meaning. Appropriate technical terms are used throughout the proposal. Only minor grammatical errors are present.*	*Writing is mostly clear and generally conveys the intended meaning. Appropriate technical terms are throughout the proposal. A few grammatical errors are present.*	*In places the writing is unclear and fails to convey the intended meaning. Technical terms may not be used appropriately. Grammatical errors are frequent.*	*The writing is frequently unclear and often fails to convey the intended meaning. Technical terms are often missing or are used incorrectly. Grammatical errors are frequent.*	
Overall Evaluation	***Excellent:*** *Proposal does not need to be resubmitted.*	***Good:*** *Proposal can be resubmitted with minor changes.*	***Fair:*** *Significant portions of the proposal need to be rewritten.*	***Poor:*** *Proposal needs to be rewritten.*	

Comments:

Student Signature: _____   Chair Signature: _____

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