

Department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education
Rubric for Scoring the Dissertation Proposal

	Unacceptable (1)	Acceptable (2)	Target (3)	Score
Introduction	Demonstrates minimal knowledge and application of presenting the introduction.	Demonstrates adequate competence in establishing a framework for the research; lays the broad foundation for the problem; creates reader interest; places the study within the larger context of the scholarly literature.	Demonstrates exemplary competence in establishing a framework for the research; creates reader interest; lays the broad foundation for the problem; places the study within the larger context of the scholarly literature.	
Statement of the Problem	Demonstrates minimal knowledge and application of presenting the statement of the problem.	Demonstrates adequate, critical knowledge and application in presenting an issue that exists in the literature, theory, or practice.	Demonstrates exemplary critical knowledge and application in presenting an issue that exists in the literature, theory, or practice.	
Purpose of the Study	Demonstrates minimal knowledge and application of presenting the purpose of the study.	Demonstrates adequate competence in orienting the reader to the central intent of the study.	Demonstrates exemplary competence in orienting the reader to the central intent of the study.	
Research Questions	Demonstrates minimal knowledge and application of presenting the research question.	Demonstrates adequate, critical knowledge and application in presenting clear interrogative statements to be answered by the research.	Demonstrates exemplary, critical knowledge and application in presenting clear interrogative statements to be answered by the research.	
Theoretical Framework	Demonstrates minimal knowledge and application of presenting the theoretical framework of the study	The candidate is generally clear in stating an in-depth analysis of key theories supporting the study.	Demonstrates in-depth knowledge and thoughtful application in stating an in-depth analysis of key theories supporting the study.	
Review of the Literature	Demonstrates minimal knowledge and application of presenting the review of the literature.	The candidate's performance is adequate in reviewing, describing, summarizing, and evaluating the relevant literature; fairly well organized; related directly to the research questions;	Demonstrates exemplary performance in presenting a comprehensive grasp of the by reviewing, describing, summarizing, and evaluating the relevant literature; well organized and related directly to the research questions.	
Definition of Terms	Demonstrates minimal knowledge and application of presenting the introduction,	Demonstrates adequate knowledge in defining terms with special meanings, specific phrases, and technical terms.	Demonstrates an exemplary level of competence of defining terms with special meanings, and specific phrases.	
Conceptual Framework of the Study	Demonstrates minimal knowledge and application of presenting the conceptual framework of the study	The candidate is reasonably clear in describing and illustrating the conceptual framework for the study.	Demonstrates an exemplary level of competence of presenting the conceptual framework of the study. Demonstrates in-depth knowledge and thoughtful application	
Research Design and Methodology	Demonstrates minimal knowledge and application of presenting the research design and methodology.	Demonstrates adequate competence in presenting the methodology for the study.	Demonstrates a high level of competence in presenting the proposed methodology for the study.	
Delimitations and Limitations	Demonstrates minimal knowledge and application of presenting the delimitations and limitations.	Demonstrates an acceptable level of knowledge and application of presenting how the study will be narrowed in scope and potential weaknesses of the study.	Demonstrates an exemplary level of knowledge and application of presenting how the study will be narrowed in scope and potential weaknesses of the study.	
Significance of the Study	Demonstrates minimal knowledge and application of presenting the significance of the study.	Demonstrates adequate competence in presenting how results of the study may affect scholarly research, theory, practice, policy, etc.	Demonstrates exemplary competence in presenting how results of the study may affect scholarly research, theory, practice, policy, etc.	
References	Demonstrates minimal knowledge and application of presenting the references.	Demonstrates an acceptable level of presenting references according to APA guidelines.	Demonstrates competence in presenting references according to APA guidelines.	
Appendices	Demonstrates minimal knowledge and application of presenting the appendices.	Demonstrates acceptable inclusion of documentation with appropriate appendices.	Demonstrates inclusion of supporting documentation with appropriate appendices.	
Organization and Presentation	The proposal is somewhat unfocused or unclear; weak; abrupt in transition; disconnected with random thoughts with no discernable points; sketchy, missing important details; inaccurate or erroneous information is provided.	The proposal is generally focused and logical with identifiable thesis; generally well organized with apparent structures and transitions; accurate with clearly stated ideas; appropriate style/ tone; needs minimum revisions.	The proposal is very clearly focused; exceptionally organized with very apparent structures and transitions (e.g., written with intact paragraphs; coherent; highly appropriate style/ tone.	
Quality of Writing	The proposal is limited in vocabulary; unclear with misused parts of speech that impair understanding; inadequate in standard writing conventions (e.g., spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar, usage, paraphrasing).	The proposal is readable and the writer's meaning on a general level is clear; adequate in standard writing conventions (e.g., spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar, usage, paraphrasing); moderately ready for approval to conduct research.	The proposal is precise, interesting, specific, and accurate; excellent in standard writing conventions (e.g., spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar, usage, paraphrasing); generally ready for conducting research.	
APA Style	Demonstrates inadequate compliance of APA style and format.	Demonstrates good compliance in the use of APA style and format; needs minor revisions.	Demonstrates exemplary compliance in the use of APA format and style.	
Total Score				

Student's Name _____ Date of Proposal _____

Title of Dissertation _____

Signature of Evaluating Committee Member _____