Critique Template for Revised Thesis Proposals

Submit to the full Advisory Committee and Lorna Williams within 1-3 days of receiving the proposal revision.

**Student: Date of Critique:**

**Committee Member:**

After the response and any revisions are submitted to the Review/Advisory Committee, there are four potential outcomes to the thesis proposal, to be determined by majority vote of the committee: high pass, pass or fail with the option either to (a) revise the proposal or (b) to change groups.

**High Pass** indicates outstanding performance on significance, innovation, and approach.

**Pass** indicates satisfactory performance on significance, innovation, and approach.

**Failure** indicates grave concerns about a student’s ability to generate ideas and design research independently in that research group such that the advisor and committee question the student’s ability to complete a Ph.D. in this research area. If a student fails, the committee must agree by majority on one of the following actions:

**Advisor(s) permit one more revision** to the proposal typically within 2-3 weeks, upon agreement of the GPC Co-Chairs. The student will be on probation and must pass fully on the second revision to remain in the research group. If co-advisors cannot agree on the outcome during the deliberation, the matter will be referred to the Department Head and/or his/her designate(s) for resolution.

**Deadline for revisions:**

**Issues or questions to be addressed by the revision:**

**Advisor(s) will terminate the student from his/her group(s).** If the student has passed the progress report and oral candidacy exam, he/she has the opportunity to join a new group within a 1–2 month grace period (financial support cannot be guaranteed). He/She would be terminated from the Ph.D. program if unable to find a new group by the end of that grace period. If a change of groups is possible, the student may be accepted only on a probationary basis and given up to 3–4 months to conduct research satisfactory to the new advisor and develop thesis proposal ideas. Note that, at the discretion of the advisor or Graduate Program Committee, a new progress report may also be required for students who change major research areas.

*Note that if there are suspected academic integrity issues, the person identifying the concern must gather the evidence and discuss the matter with the department head or GPC Co-Chairs according to the departmental academic integrity procedures and penalties, when warranted, will be determined separately from the outcome of the written progress report. The concern should be kept confidential and not be raised with the Advisory Committee until after the outcome is determined.*

In each case, the deficiencies must be communicated in writing by the Advisory Committee Chair to the student and the Graduate Program Committee within 1-3 days.

A student may not achieve ABD status without a satisfactory performance on the thesis proposal. Failure to defend a thesis proposal successfully by the end of the fifth semester in residence is grounds for termination from the Ph.D. program, unless the GPC has approved an extension based on a petition from the student.

**Committee Chair Signature indicates that this form represents the overall exam outcome**

**Chair’s Signature**

**Date**