

EVALUATION RUBRIC

For Use With

ENVS MASTER’S THESIS PROPOSAL/DEFENSE AND RESEARCH PRACTICUM PRESENTATION

	Excellent (substantially exceeds minimum standards for MS-level work)	Good (exceeds minimum standards for MS-level work)	Fair (meets minimum standards for MS-level work)	Unsatisfactory (does not meet minimum standards for MS-level work)
Understanding of basic scientific/legal/policy principles [Outcomes I & II]	Comprehensive understanding of basic environmental science principles related to project; able to cite relevant examples from current literature to support scientific principles	Good understanding of basic environmental science principles related to project without prompting	A basic understanding of environmental science principles related to project; requires some prompting	Weak understanding of relevant environmental science principles related to project requires extensive prompting
Literature Review [Outcomes III & IV]	Displays a robust and critical understanding of a sizable amount of complex literature	Displays understanding of the relevant literature	Displays an adequate, albeit limited, understanding of the relevant literature	Does not understand basic concepts, processes, or conventions of the discipline
Quality of Presentation [Outcome V]	Excellent organization, very high quality slides, clear delivery, smooth transitions	Good organization, high quality slides, generally clear delivery, reasonably smooth transitions	Adequate organization, minor issues with slides and/or delivery	Weak organization, major issues with slides and/or delivery
Ability to answer questions and participate in a scholarly discussion [Outcomes I, II & III]	Argument is focused, logical, rigorous, and sustained	Has a strong, comprehensive, and coherent argument	Can sustain an argument, but the argument is not imaginative or complex	Weak, inconsistent, self-contradictory, unconvincing, or invalid argument, unable

To report results, please visit: <https://forms.office.com/r/2rj0e0XH0>

Last revised: 25 Sept. 2025