

## Guidelines for Advancement to Candidacy Evaluation

### PLO 1. Depth of knowledge in chosen area of thesis proposal

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- Excellent:* Identifies all relevant results/techniques from literature, and synthesizes them in a thoughtful discussion.
- Satisfactory:* Discusses major previous works and places them in context for the present project.
- Unsatisfactory:* Fails to cite or assimilate previous work of relevance to topic.

### PLO 2. Ability to integrate knowledge and critical thinking

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- Excellent:* Original research that demonstrates distinct creativity in the question or experimental design. Complete answers that show a deep understanding of the discipline that extends beyond the contents of the document.
- Satisfactory:* Describes a novel problem appropriate for a doctoral thesis. Competent answers that illustrate a facility with the issues and techniques immediately relevant to the thesis project.
- Unsatisfactory:* Incremental approach unlikely to yield publishable findings. Answers reveal a limited familiarity with the thesis project or its context.

### PLO 3. Written communication skills

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- Excellent:* Good organization, fluent prose, and few grammatical errors. Full compliance with formatting guidelines.
- Satisfactory:* Decent organization, coherent prose, and limited grammatical errors. Full compliance with formatting guidelines.
- Unsatisfactory:* Poor organization, incoherent prose, and/or numerous grammatical errors. Not in compliance with formatting guidelines.

### PLO 4. Visual and oral communication skills

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- Excellent:* Engaging, highly polished presentation with well crafted slides that illustrate key results in the project and clearly describe future directions.
- Satisfactory:* Professional presentation on par with a solid conference talk, includes a coherent project narrative and future plans.
- Unsatisfactory:* Too much or too little detail, unclear about project goals and direction, incoherent or illegible slides, read from slides.