Guidelines for Advancement to Candidacy Evaluation

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

**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

**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

**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

**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.