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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Rubric Category** | **4** | **3** | **2** | **1** |
| **Intellectual merit: Project rationale****(20%)**  | The rationale has strong connection to recent scholarship. | The rationale has limited connection to recent scholarship. | The rationale is inconsistent or contains errors. | The rationale contains serious errors. |
| **Intellectual merit: Project results** **(20%)** | The potential result is likely to have strong contribution to the field through publication or exhibition**.** | The potential result is likely to have limited contribution to the field through publication or exhibition. | The results are unlikely to contribute to the field through publication or exhibition. | The results are likely to have no potential contribution to the field through publication or exhibition. |
| **Broader community impact** **(10%)** | Has strong potential to contribute to the community-at-large | Has limited potential to contribute to the community-at-large | Is unlikely to contribute to the community-at-large | Has no potential to contribute to the community-at-large |
| **Articulation/Description of the project** **(30%)** | Easily understood to persons both within and outside of the field | Difficult for persons outside the field to comprehend; written for persons within the field | Difficult to understand for persons both inside and outside the field. | Unclear and vague description of project; difficult to understand for persons both inside and outside the field. |
| **Academic Statement** **(20%)** | Excellent description of their interest in the project and how it aligns with their career aspirations and academic program. | Satisfactory description of their interest in the project and how it aligns with their career aspirations and academic program. | Poor description of their interest in the project and how it aligns with their career aspirations and academic program. | Unacceptable/no description of their interest in the project and how it aligns with their career aspirations and academic program. |

\* The final score will be calculated by multiplying the points assigned in each category by their respective weights.

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| **Mentor letter is provided and is supportive of student’s research goals.** | Yes | No |

**Overall Comments:**

**Rubric Category Definitions:**

**Intellectual merit** - The intellectual merit of the project should be evaluated on two primary factors:

1) The rationale (20%) for the project should be founded in the literature or a clear description of the inspiration or connection to scholarly work. The rationale should also contain a clear description of how this work is related to the mentor’s research program.

2) The result (20%) of the project should be of high quality with the potential to be a manuscript, conference presentation, performance, or exhibition.

**Broader community impact (10%)** - The student should clearly state how this project has the potential to impact the community-at-large.

**Articulation/Description of the project (30%)** - The proposal should be written in a manner that is easily understood to persons both within and outside of the field of research. Proposals will receive lower scores if they give the impression that they were written by the faculty mentor or heavily copied from existing theses, grants or publications, without much effort by the submitter.

**Academic Statement (20%) -** The student should describe why they are interested in the project and the value of the project to their academic and professional development.