

HONORS EVALUATION RUBRIC FOR COG SCI THESIS ADVISORS

The Weinberg Institute Undergraduate Committee asks advisors to fill out a rubric on the categories listed below and considers this input when assigning final honors designations.

Criterion 1: Research Topic and Introduction

- The thesis identifies a research question that is appropriate in content and scope.
- The Introduction is logical and adequately introduces the topic of the research.
- The thesis cites the appropriate prior literature and provides a context and rationale for the thesis work and its significance.
- The thesis explicitly states its goals/objectives/hypotheses.

Criterion 2: Methods/Approach

- The thesis demonstrates competent selection and use of methods acceptable in the discipline.
- The methodology/approach is appropriate given the (inter)disciplinary focus of the project and sufficient to address the research question.
- The method section is clearly written with enough detail so that a reader could understand what was done and judge whether the method used appropriately addressed the question at hand.

Criterion 3 (if applicable): Results/Data Analysis

- The results clearly describe the outcomes of the study and clearly indicate what the results mean in light of the questions addressed.

Criterion 4: Discussion and Interpretation

- The discussion appropriately outlines the main conclusions of the study, the implications of the findings, limitations, caveats, and future directions.
- Significance of what was discovered, learned, or created in the thesis is demonstrated.
- Claims made throughout the thesis are qualified and well supported.
- The discussion/analysis demonstrates independent and critical thought.
- The thesis is integrative and effectively engages and synthesizes a large or diverse set of literatures.

Criterion 5: Originality and Innovation

- The thesis presents a relevant and important contribution to the relevant scholarship.
- The thesis displays marked novelty or innovation in its approach.

Criterion 6: Writing and Scholarship

- The thesis is clear and well written.
- The thesis effectively communicates ideas.
- Organization is clear and effective throughout.
- The thesis is free of grammatical and typographical errors.
- Sources and citations are used correctly.
- The figures and tables (if used) are clear and accurate.