**ETSU Honors College – Honors Thesis Rubric**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Exceeds Expectations** | **Meets Expectations** | **Needs Improvement** |
| **Abstract** | * Abstract easily understood by general university audience
* Description of research, context, approach, process, and conclusions is clear and concise
* Link to larger context is clear
 | * Abstract is understandable to general university audience
* Description of project/written work is generally complete
* Link to larger context is suggested or alluded to
 | * Abstract not easily understood by general university audience
* Description of project/written work is incomplete
* Link to larger context is missing/unclear
 |
| **Research question/issue/creative challenge presented within academic framework** | * Research question/issue/creative challenge specifically identified and well summarized
* Goals/objectives/hypothesis is clear
* Historical context, assumptions/biases, and/or ethical considerations are present and well-developed
* Thesis situated clearly within discipline-specific academic framework
* Thesis connection to specific local, national, global or civic issue(s) is present and well-developed
 | * Research question/issue/creative challenge generally identified and summarized
* Goals/objectives/hypothesis presented
* Historical context, assumptions/biases, and/or ethical considerations are present and developed
* Thesis presented within discipline-specific academic framework
* Thesis connection to specific local, national, global or civic issue(s) is present and developed
 | * Research question/issue/creative challenge not identified, or inaccurately/inadequately represented
* Goals/objectives/hypothesis is vague or incomplete
* Historical context, assumptions/biases, and/or ethical considerations are lacking or underdeveloped
* Thesis not presented/inadequately presented within discipline-specific academic framework
* Thesis connection to appropriate local, national, global or civic issue(s) is lacking or underdeveloped
 |
| **Methodology/approach appropriate to disciplinary/interdisciplinary focus** | * Methodology/approach is appropriate, clear, and delineated
* Procedures of the discipline, and relevant interdisciplinary considerations, are well-presented
* Topic clearly contextualized among appropriate and current sources; materials cited
 | * Methodology/approach is appropriate and adequately described
* Procedures of the discipline, and relevant interdisciplinary considerations, are presented
* Topic contextualized among sources and materials cited
 | * Methodology/approach missing, incomplete, insufficiently detailed, or inappropriate
* Procedures of the discipline, and relevant interdisciplinary considerations are underdeveloped or missing
* Topic minimally situated among sources and materials cited
 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Supporting evidence and body of knowledge; findings** | * Body of knowledge thoroughly discussed
* Evidence is comprehensively and thoroughly utilized
* Accuracy and relevance of evidence appropriately questioned; bias(es) identified
* Multiple perspectives considered
* Appropriate quantitative and/or symbolic tools are comprehensively utilized
* Evaluates, analyzes, and synthesizes information comprehensively and thoroughly
 | * Body of knowledge discussed
* Evidence is utilized appropriately
* Accuracy and relevance of evidence questioned; at least some bias(es) identified
* Varying perspectives are acknowledged
* Quantitative and/or symbolic tools used appropriately
* Evaluation, analysis, and synthesis present
 | * Evidence/body of knowledge inadequately discussed
* Evidential support for argument, or use of evidence, is selective or inadequate
* Fact vs opinion not well distinguished; bias(s) recognition is lacking
* Perspectives are limited
* Quantitative and/or symbolic tools used inappropriately
* Evaluation, analysis, synthesis are limited
 |
| **Conclusions, implications, and consequences** | * Conclusions, qualifications, and consequences, including value of thesis or creative body of work, are presented and well developed
* Significance of what was discovered, learned or created is clearly described
* Assertions are qualified and well supported through evidence or developed body of work
* Connections to relevant local, national, global, or civic issue(s) are fully discussed; ramifications of work are presented clearly and discussed thoroughly
 | * Conclusions, qualifications, and consequences are presented adequately
* Significance of what was discovered, learned or created is presented
* Assertions are qualified and supported through evidence or developed body of work
* Connections to relevant local, national, global, or civic issue(s) are discussed; ramifications of work are described
 | * Conclusions, implications, and/or consequences lacking, or conclusions are loosely related to consequences or implications
* Significance of what was discovered, learned, or created is unclear
* Assertions are unqualified or unwarranted
* Appropriate connections to local, national, global or civic issue(s) are lacking; ramifications of work are not described nor discussed
 |
| **Writing** | * Language clearly and effectively communicates ideas (grammar and mechanics)
* Language is appropriately nuanced and eloquent
* Errors are minimal
* Organization is clear and effective and utilized to best effect
* Sources and citations used correctly and effectively
 | * Language communicates ideas adequately (grammar and mechanics)
* Language use meets expectations for graduating university student
* Errors are present
* Organization is sound/good
* Sources and citations are used, minor errors are present
 | * Language obscures meaning/unclear in places
* Grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors are distracting and/or repeated
* Work is unfocused
* Organization is clumsy or mechanical
* Sources are not cited and/or not used correctly
 |

**Overall Evaluation:** *(Please check one)*  \_\_\_Thesis ***exceeds expectations*** \_\_\_Thesis ***meets expectations*** \_\_\_ Thesis ***needs improvement***