BCMB Honors Evaluation Rubrics
Approved April 8, 2022

Step 2: Honors Proposal

To be evaluated by three honors committee members using the honors proposal rubric below. **A score of 64 or greater is needed to proceed.**

1. The author includes a clear and concise title for the proposed project (**2 pts**).

2. The author concisely introduces a research question(s) in the **Specific Aims** section of the proposal (300-word summary statement) (**8 pts**).

Poor (0 1 2)	Average (3 4 5)	Good/Excellent (6 7 8)
Summary Statement is missing completely or missing one or more of the following: overview of topic, summary of what is known, gap in knowledge, or need for the work.	Summary Statement is present and incorporates an overview of the topic, summary of what is known, the gap in knowledge, and need for the work, but one or more element is incomplete or unclear.	Summary Statement is present and incorporates an **overview of the topic**, a **summary of what is known**, the **gap in knowledge** we are trying to fill, and the **need for the work**.
One or more Specific Aims are missing.	All Specific Aims are present, but the title, strategy, or outcome/impact for one or more may be incomplete or unclear.	Each of the Specific Aims are clearly introduced with a **title**, **strategy**, and **outcome/impact**.

3. The author identifies a hypothesis/question, contextualizes the hypothesis/question, supports it with evidence, and proposes an approach to address the hypothesis/question in the **Introduction** section of the assignment (750-1000 words) (**20 pts**).

Poor (0 1 2 3 4 5 6)	Average (7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14)	Good/Excellent (15 16 17 18 19 20)
The background information may not be appropriate and/or sufficient. The work relies heavily or exclusively on general, non-scholarly or irrelevant sources that do not support the hypothesis.	The background information supports the hypothesis at times, but sources are not always appropriate and/or sufficient.	The author uses appropriate and sufficient background information from relevant sources to support the hypothesis/question.
The work lacks a clear hypothesis/question.	The author attempts to identify a hypothesis/question, but the hypothesis/question is not a clear explanation for the phenomenon in question.	The author identifies a clear and concise hypothesis/question that is **explanation for the phenomenon in question**.
The author does not summarize the experimental approach.	The author summarizes elements of an approach, but the approach is incomplete.	The author summarizes the experimental approach.

4. The author provides enough information to understand the experiments that will be undertaken in the **Materials and Methods** section of the assignment and the experiments are feasible with available time/resources (500 words) (**15 pts**).

Poor (0 1 2 3 4 5)	Average (6 7 8 9 10)	Good/Excellent (11 12 13 14 15)
Key information is missing or incomplete. Another scientist would not be capable of reproducing the findings.	All aspects of the experimental procedure are addressed, but at times not in enough detail for another scientist to reproduce the findings.	The author provides enough information so that another scientist could successfully reproduce the findings.
	At times, too much information is provided that is available from other citable sources.	The author **cites other sources** of methods when available.
It is not likely that the methods can be completed with the available time/resources.	Adjustments that do not interfere with the major goals of the project may be required to complete the methods.	The methods can be **completed with the available time and resources**.

5. The author clearly states the preliminary results in the **Results** section of the assignment (up to 2000 words) (**20 pts**).

Poor (0 1 2 3 4 5 6)	Average (7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14)	Good/Excellent (15 16 17 18 19 20)
The author does not describe the results in writing.	The author attempts to describe the results in writing, but does not do so in a thorough and/or accurate manner.	The author thoroughly and accurately **describes the results in writing**, references the figures/tables where appropriate, and includes statistical analysis (if appropriate).
Figures/tables are missing altogether or contain very little data and/or inaccurate data.	The author provides figures/tables but may be missing some data and/or include some inaccurate data.	The author provides figures/tables with **complete and accurate data.**
Figures/table legends are missing.	The author provides figure/table legends that are incomplete.	The author provides figure/table legends that provide a) a title, b) concise information about what was done and c) the key finding.
No preliminary data exists, so it is not clear if the student can complete the proposed aims.	Preliminary data is present for some, but not all the project aims. It is likely that at least some aspect of the project can be completed in a timely manner.	Preliminary **data is sufficient to indicate technical competency and ability to complete the aims** of the proposal in a timely manner.

6. The author conforms to appropriate standards for language usage throughout the assignment (**10 pts**).

Poor (0 1 2 3)	Average (4 5 6 7)	Good/Excellent (8 9 10)
Frequent problems with grammar and mechanics detract from meaning.

Vocabulary or phrasing is frequently unclear or misleading. The reader may have doubts about the author's control of vocabulary, sentence structure, grammar and mechanics, etc. | Overall, language use is mainly correct and effective.

At times, the author crafts sentences that are wordy, but that do not interfere with a reader's understanding of the text.

Word choices are mainly effective. In places, the author's command of language use or language choices may falter. | Language use is uniformly correct and effective.

The author crafts **clear and concise sentences** that communicate the author's ideas precisely.

Vocabulary is **sophisticated and specialized**, and the author demonstrates command over that vocabulary. |

7. The author conforms to appropriate formats for citation of source material throughout the assignment (**5 pts**).

Poor (0 1)	Average (2 3)	Good/Excellent (4 5)
Citations may be absent, incomplete or inaccurate.	The author uses the appropriate citation style, and, for the most part, the citations conform to that citation style. Source citations may be inconsistent or incomplete, but they are enough to locate the source and avoid an accusation of plagiarism.	The author uses the appropriate citation style, and the citation style is thorough and correct, both within the text and in the citation list or bibliography.

Total: 80 pts; Student must achieve ≥ 64 points to continue