

Purdue University Interdisciplinary Life Science Program (PULSe)

Criteria for Preliminary Examination

Committee Member _____ Student _____

	Excellent	Satisfactory	Improvement Needed	Fails to Meet Minimal Expectations
Overall Breadth of Knowledge				
Student understands and can discuss the data supporting the major concepts/hypotheses/models in the field.				
Student exhibits knowledge of pertinent literature, principles of experimental techniques, and underlying theoretical concepts.				
Student is able to synthesize knowledge from multiple fields.				
Originality and Significance of Proposal				
Proposal is original, identifies a specific knowledge gap and/or a reason to challenge existing hypotheses or dogma.				
Student can articulate expected findings, their significance, and how the new data would advance the field.				
Critical Thinking and Experimental Design				
Student formulates testable hypotheses.				
Student clearly explains proposed experiments and the rationale for particular approaches.				
Student explains sampling, expected results, and statistical analyses.				
Student articulates the limitations, potential pitfalls, and alternate approaches for proposed experiments.				
Written Communication Skills (For Written Proposal)				
Document is accurate, precise, and organized in a logical manner.				
There are few errors in grammar, punctuation, spelling, and word use.				
Literature is adequately cited.				

	Excellent	Satisfactory	Improvement Needed	Fails to Meet Minimal Expectations
Oral Communication Skills (For Oral Exam)				
Background information is presented in a logical, clear, and coherent manner.				
Slides/overheads are clear, properly labeled, and well organized.				
Responses to questions are clear and reveal depth of knowledge and command of subject.				

Additional Comments:

I recommend the following outcome to the Chair of the Examining Committee:

For Evaluation of Written Proposal Examination

☐ Approved (Written preliminary examination is deemed defensible.)

☐ Not Approved * (Written proposal is not defensible at this time, as the proposal requires significant revision. Submit this form to the exam committee Chair.)

* A new exam date may be granted by the Chair of the Examination Committee upon the student's request. If a new exam time is granted, the Chair must notify the PULSe office of the new exam date.

Signature of Committee Member

Date



Submit this form to the exam committee Chair.

For Evaluation of Oral Examination

☐ Passed (exceeds expectations) ☐ Passed (meets expectations with some improvement needed)

☐ Not Passed (does not meet expectations) ☐ Re-exam after one term within six months ☐ Other – See Graduate School Form 10

Signature of Committee Member

Date