**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***