

## OUTSTANDING THESIS AWARD

### CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

**Overall criteria: The thesis must:**

- exhibit creativity and originality;**
- make a significant contribution to its field;**
- be of publishable quality in its discipline.**

The following categories and questions are provided in order to assist selection committees with specific factors that may contribute to the decisions reached by the final panels of judges who will review nominations for the Outstanding Thesis Award.

This list mainly addresses evaluation areas for research-oriented theses. **For nominations of theses in the arts and humanities, reviewers should also consult the suggested criteria drawn up by the Office of the Dean of Arts and Humanities.**

The University Emeritus Judges panel has requested that **three faculty letters of support** accompany each college/school nomination. These letters should detail the particular attributes of the nominated work, especially in relation to the specific disciplinary demands, that they believe qualify it for the award.

Please note: (1) Since writing style and skills, as well as organizational ability, form a critical part of the assessment of thesis quality, **we strongly suggest that reviewers assure that their nomination fully represents the work of the author, not an editor.** (2) This form is provided as a general guide, or worksheet, only. It is not meant to be submitted with the thesis nomination.

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## **INTRODUCTORY CHAPTERS**

1. Was the problem area defined?
2. Was the need for the study and its significance clearly stated, and does the study make a significant contribution its particular field?
3. Were the statements of the problem, the question, and the approach logical and internally consistent?
4. Was the review of the literature comprehensive and up-to-date?

## **METHODOLOGY CHAPTERS**

1. Was the study well designed? (Variables well-defined, sampling or population appropriate, instruments appropriate, etc.)
2. Did the methodology description follow a logical sequence?

## **RESULTS CHAPTERS**

1. Were the appropriate analytical methods chosen and described?
2. Were analytical methods appropriately implemented?
3. Were adequate statements made regarding the support or rejection of hypotheses?

## **DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION CHAPTERS**

1. Were discussions logical, critical, analytical?
2. Were recommendations soundly derived from the results and conclusions? Were limitations delineated? Were implications for future research soundly thought out and suggested?

## **OVERALL**

1. Were any documentation and illustrative methods, as required by the discipline, of an especially outstanding or unusual quality?
2. Was the quality of writing of an exceptional nature?
3. Does the thesis provide a particularly creative and/or original approach to its subject?