

Scoring Rubric –MS Writing Requirement, MS in MFT and Counseling and Student Services

| Scoring Level | Style and Format | <u>Mechanics</u> | <u>Content and Organization</u> |
|-----------------|--|--|--|
| 4 - Exemplary | In addition to meeting the requirement for a “3,” the paper is consistent with APA throughout. Models the language and conventions used in related scholarly/professional literature. Would meet the guidelines for an APA publication. | In addition to meeting the requirements for a “3,” the paper is essentially error free in terms of mechanics. Writing flows smoothly from one idea to another. Transitions help establish a sound scholarly argument and aid the reader in following the writer’s logic. | In addition to meeting the requirements for a “3,” excels in the organization and presentation of ideas related to the topic. Raises important issues or ideas which may not have been represented in the literature cited. Would serve as a good basis for further research on the topic. |
| 3- Accomplished | While there may be minor errors, APA conventions for style and format are used consistently throughout the paper. Demonstrates thoroughness and competence in documenting sources; the reader would have little difficulty referring back to cited sources. Style and format contribute to the comprehensibility of the paper. Models the discipline’s overall journalistic style. | While there may be minor errors, the paper follows normal conventions of spelling and grammar throughout. Errors do not interfere significantly with comprehensibility. Transitions and organizational structures such as subheadings are used which help the reader move from one point to another. | Follows all requirements for the paper. Topic is timely and carefully focused. Clearly outlines the major points related to the topic; ideas are logically arranged to present a sound scholarly argument. Paper is interesting and holds the reader’s attention. Does a creditable job summarizing related literature. |
| 2- Developing | While some APA conventions are followed, others are not. Paper lacks consistency of style and/or format. It may be unclear which references are direct quotes and which are paraphrased. Based on the information provided, the reader would have some difficulty referring back to cited sources. Significant revisions would contribute to the comprehensibility of the paper. | Frequent errors in spelling, grammar (such as subject/verb agreements and tense), sentence structure and/or other writing conventions make reading difficult and interfere with comprehensibility. Writing does not flow smoothly from point to point; lacks appropriate transitions. | While the paper represents the major requirement, it is lacking in substantial ways. The content may be poorly focused or the scholarly argument weak or poorly conceived. Major ideas related to the content may be ignored or inadequately explored. Overall, the content and organization needs significant revision to represent a critical analysis of the topic. |
| 1 - Beginning | APA conventions are not followed. Fails to demonstrate thoroughness and competence in documentation. Lack of appropriate style and format make reading and comprehensibility problematic. | Paper contains numerous errors in spelling, grammar, and/or sentence structure which make following the logic of the paper extremely difficult. | Analysis of existing scholarly/professional literature on the topic is inadequate. Content is poorly focused and lacks organization. The reader is left with little information about nor understanding of the paper’s topic. |