Category	Excellent	Satisfactory	Below Satisfaction
Project Description (10 points) Students are asked to: Provide a short abstract or overview of the proposed research project, including the background information and context, purpose, objectives, and methodological approach of the project. Please use language for a broad audience.	 (2 points) Excellent background information and context are provided in a way that is appropriate to allow the reader to fully understand the project. 	(1 point) Relevant background information and context are provided to mostly allow the reader to understand the project. However, there may be too much, or too little background and context provided.	☐ (0 points) Background information and context are provided in an insufficient way to allow the reader to understand the project. <i>Or</i> this aspect is <i>missing</i> .
	☐ (2 points) The purpose of the research is clearly articulated, providing the motivation and justification for undertaking the research. If appropriate, the student clearly identifies a gap or a challenge the research aims to tackle.	(1 point) The purpose of the research is somewhat clearly articulated, but it is a bit difficult to understand the motivation and justification for undertaking the research.	□ (0 points) The purpose of the research is not clearly articulated, so it is very difficult to understand the motivation and justification for undertaking the research. <i>Or</i> this aspect is <i>missing</i> .
	☐ (2 points) The objectives or goals of the research project are provided. The objectives/goals are manageable and appropriate for the research term length, so it is reasonable that the project could be completed.	☐ (1 point) The objectives or goals of the research project are provided and are somewhat manageable and appropriate for the research term length. It seems fairly reasonable that the project could be completed, but it might be slightly too large or small in scope.	□ (0 points) The objectives or goals of the research project are provided. However, they seem unmanageable and inappropriate for the research term length, so it is unlikely that the project could be completed as proposed. <i>Or</i> this aspect is <i>missing</i> .
	 (2 points) Given the disciplinary context, the methodological approach is well-aligned and appropriate for the project's purpose and objectives. 	 (1 point) It is somewhat difficult to determine if the methodological approach is aligned and appropriate for the project's purpose and objectives. 	 (0 points) The methodological approach appears poorly aligned and appropriate for the project's purpose and objectives. Or this aspect is missing.
	☐ (2 points) Language choice and writing: The project description is exceptionally clear, concise, and easy to understand for someone outside of the discipline. Field-specific jargon, if used, is clearly explained.	☐ (1 point) Language choice and writing: The project description is mostly clear and easy to understand. However, some field-specific jargon or lack of information makes it somewhat difficult to understand.	□ (0 points) Language choice and writing: The project description is unclear and difficult to understand due to field-specific jargon or poor language choice.

Originality, Creativity, and Significance (5 points) Students are asked to: Highlight the originality, creative aspects, and significance of your research project. Please use language for a broad audience	□ (2 points) The originality of the project is clearly and convincingly described. The research is a novel, creative approach to examining a problem or question. It is clear how the research fits into and contributes to the broader scholarly or creative field.	□ (1 point) The originality of the project is somewhat clearly and convincingly described. The research may not be completely novel, but it is a creative approach to examining a problem or question. It is mostly clear how the research fits into and contributes to the broader scholarly or creative field	□ (0 points) The originality of the project is not clearly nor convincingly described. The research is not a novel nor a creative approach to examining a problem or question. It is unclear how the research fits into and contributes to the broader scholarly or creative field.
	☐ (3 points) The significance or value of the research in terms of how others will benefit from the new knowledge or creative work is clearly articulated. And/or there is a clear description of how the research aims to advance knowledge or understanding within or outside of the field.	☐ (2 points) The significance or value of the research in terms of how others will benefit from the new knowledge or creative work is somewhat clearly articulated. And/or there is a mostly clear description of how the research aims to advance knowledge or understanding within or outside of the field.	☐ (0-1 point) The significance or value of the research in terms of how others will benefit from the new knowledge or creative work is not articulated. It is unclear how the research aims to advance knowledge or understanding within or outside the field. Or this aspect is missing.
Student Preparedness & Benefits (10 points) [5 points] Benefits to the student	 (4-5 points) The benefits to the student are clearly and convincingly described in terms of academic, professional, and personal development. 	☐ (2-3 points) The benefits to the students are somewhat clearly described in terms of academic, professional, and personal development. However, benefits may be vague or somewhat incompletely articulated.	☐ (0-1 point) The benefits to the students are not clear in terms of academic, professional career and personal development. <i>OR</i> this aspect is <i>missing</i> .
Students are asked to: Briefly explain the potential benefit this project will provide to you. [5 points] Background preparation Students are asked to: Tell us about any relevant professional, volunteer or academic experience that prepared you for succeeding with the proposed project.	demonstrates excellent background preparation and research potential by clearly and convincingly describing 2 or more relevant experiences, with a strong description of how the experiences prepared them for research. Students can show evidence of their background preparation in many diverse ways: Previous work, volunteer, community engagement	(2-3 points) The student demonstrates solid background preparation and research potential by clearly and convincingly describing 1 relevant experience, with a strong description of how the experience prepared them for research. OR the student describes 2 or more experiences, but the connection to how to experiences prepared them for research is somewhat incomplete or unclear.	☐ (0-1 point) The student demonstrates minimal background preparation or research potential, as the connection between the student's experiences and research preparation is not relevant or is incomplete or unclear. <i>OR</i> this aspect is <i>missing</i> .

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Students may also answer the optional question, which can be used for part of the rubric: Is there anything else we should know about your application? For example, any situations that might have impacted your academic record. This information can be used to assess this criterion	 Academic research and/or creative activity training Previous research experience and/or research awards held Relevant community involvement and outreach Coursework, connections to a degree program, course load, year in program pursued Providing examples of how they have demonstrated initiative and independence in non-research contexts Providing examples of how they have demonstrated judgement and ability to think critically Demonstrated ability to apply skills and knowledge in different contexts 		
Mentorship and Research Environment (10 points) SUPERVISORS are asked: Describe the research environment in which the student will be working and include mentoring opportunities	□ (3 points) Research environment — the supervisor describes excellent opportunities for the student to engage with a team, function in a learning space, develop research partnerships & collaborations, and/or exposure to a research team.	□ (2 points) Research environment — the supervisor describes good opportunities for the student to engage with a team, function in a learning space, develop research partnerships & collaborations, and/or exposure to a research team.	□ (0-1 point) Research environment — the supervisor describes unsatisfactory opportunities for the student to engage with a team, function in a learning space, develop research partnerships & collaborations, and/or exposure to a research team. <i>OR</i> this aspect is <i>missing</i> .
include mentoring opportunities	□ (3 points) Mentorship opportunities − the supervisor describes strong support for research mentorship, career & professional development, and provides a welcoming and inclusive environment that acknowledges the intersection of professional and personal identities. It is evident that the student will receive excellent training in research techniques, skills, and approaches.		□ (0-1 point) Mentorship opportunities − the supervisor describes minimal support for research mentorship and career & professional development. It is unclear how the mentor will provide a welcoming and inclusive environment that acknowledges the intersection of professional and personal identities. It is unclear whether the student will receive training in research techniques, skills,

		and approaches. OR this aspect is missing.
☐ (2 points) Role clarity — the role, involvement, and activities of the student and faculty mentor are carefully described and explained. Roles are appropriate, given the context. The expected student contributions to research output are clearly defined.	t) Role clarity – the role, ment, and activities of the t and faculty mentor are hat described and explained. re somewhat appropriate, ne context. The expected t contributions to research are somewhat defined.	☐ (O points) Role clarity — the studen and faculty mentor's role, involvement, and activities are not described and explained. Or roles a inappropriate, given the context. The expected student contributions to research output are not defined.
(2 points) Benefits to the mentor – the supervisor <i>clearly</i> describes why they want to mentor the student, the benefits, and how they see this opportunity contributing to their professional career.	t) Benefits to the mentor —the sor somewhat clearly es why they want to mentor dent, the benefits, and how e this opportunity contributing professional career.	☐ (O points) Benefits to the mentor — The supervisor does not describe w they want to mentor the student, th benefits, and how they see this opportunity contributing to their professional career.