

**Research Competency: Specialty Area Project (SAP)
Evaluation Form**

This Form must be accompanied by the: SAP Research Evaluation Matrix and Checklist

Student: _____

Averaged Score (1-5): _____

Advisor Signature: _____

Date: _____

Scoring Options:

- 5 = Highly Exceeds Expectations (excellent with respect to qualities such as those listed in each category below)
- 4 = Exceeds Expectations (strong in all component areas)
- 3 = Meets Expectations (sufficient attention and quality in all components required to **pass this element**)
- 2 = Below Expectations (revisions required in order to meet expectations and pass - as specified below)
- 1 = Significantly Below Expectations (not ready for submission, lacks qualities specified below, significant work required)

Score: Definition of Score:

- 5 This SAP goes beyond the expected level for a typical doctoral student at this stage of training. A thorough, accurate, and comprehensive understanding of specialty area/research topic is demonstrated along with a strong rationale for the study. Every element of the task is presented with clarity, depth of thought, and focused and coherent organization. Analyses well suited to questions, presented very well. Evidence base included with appropriate citations. The content is expressed with superior precision and literacy. Threats to validity corresponding to the research methodology and questions of the paper are thoroughly presented (within the paper or in an appendix or addendum as needed and suggested by your advisor)
- 4 This SAP includes all elements of a publishable research project, well justified, research addresses the relevant elements and demonstrates a solid understanding of the area. It shows clear and sophisticated thinking and good organization and structure. Presentation of material is skillful and thorough. Well-cited. Evidence base included. Threats to validity corresponding to the research methodology and questions of the paper are adequately presented.
- 3 This SAP includes all elements of a publishable research project. The content, while sound, may also be slightly under-elaborated or at a minimally acceptable level. Like the 4 – level response, it shows clarity of thought but may lack tight, cohesive organization (some digressions may be evident). Content is adequate to demonstrate competency, including presentation and clarification of validity threats, but more would be needed to gain higher levels of expertise in the area.
- 2 This SAP neglects one or more components (rationale, results) such that it provides only a superficial or underdeveloped treatment of the area. Evidence base may be insufficient. It may show some clarity of thought while being overly simplistic. Problems in organization may be evident. The writing frequently impedes communication of the writer’s ideas. Content is presented at the minimal level, and is not unacceptable for a doctoral student at this stage of development. Room for improvement is evident.
- 1 This SAP seriously neglects or distorts one or more of the relevant elements or offers less than minimal treatment of the area. Evidence base not presented. Alternatively, it may demonstrate substantial problems with analysis, organization, and understanding of the topic. Presentation is unorganized, poor reflection of knowledge.

Additional Comments: (Also, refer to **SAP Research Eval Matrix** and to comments throughout the SAP document).
