

Master of Science (Surgical Research)

Criteria for thesis proposal evaluation

In order to pass the proposal defense, all criteria must be in “good” condition

A. Title	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A
A1. The title summarizes main idea simply within 20 words.				
A2. The title is fully explanatory when standing alone.				
A3. Every word in the title serves a useful purpose.				
A4. There is no abbreviation in the title.				
B. Table of content				
B1. All key sections have been listed in table of content (Introduction, literature review, method)				
B2. All pages are listed correctly.				
B3. List of tables includes all the tables shown in the thesis proposal, with correct page numbers.				
B4. List of figures includes all the figures shown in the thesis proposal, with correct page numbers.				
B5. List of abbreviations shows all abbreviations used in the thesis proposal with correct spelling.				
C. Introduction				
C1. The introduction contains all critical parts: background, conceptual framework, research questions, purposes of the study, research hypothesis, scope of the study, significance of the study, definitions of key terms, ethical considerations				
C2. The research question is good: feasible, clear, significance, ethical				
C3. The problem under investigation is relevant to surgery.				
C4. The conceptual framework being used is appropriate and up-to-date.				
C5. All critical ethical issues related to research questions have been addressed.				
D. Literature review				
D1. The literature review provides appropriate history of the problem being investigated in a concise manner.				
D2. The literature review contains all pertinent literature related to research problem. The review shows correct understanding of the concepts being investigated.				

D. Literature review	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A
D3. The literature review does not contain unimportant literature (i.e., the works that only tangentially related to the research problem).				
D4. Controversial issues have been addressed fairly. The literature review is written in an unbiased, professional manner.				
D5. All terms used in the literature review are consistent (i.e., does not use different words to show the same idea in different parts of literature review).				
D6. All key variables under investigation have been critically reviewed.				
D7. All test instruments (questionnaires/rating scale/MCQ/ etc.) being employed in the study have been critically reviewed.				
D8. All medical equipment and drugs being used in the study have been thoroughly reviewed.				
E. Methods				
E1. The samples being studied are appropriately selected and are described clearly.				
E2. In a comparison study, the proposed procedure for group assignment is appropriate and has been described clearly.				
E3. In a study with incentives to participants, the incentives are appropriate and have been described clearly.				
E4. The sample size is appropriate.				
E5. All planned subgroup analyses are appropriate.				
E6. All research instruments, equipment, medical devices, drugs being used in the study have been clearly described.				
E7. The steps for conducting the study have been described clearly.				
E8. The procedure for data collection is completely described.				
E9. The intervention to be given to participants has been clearly described.				
E10. All relevant variables that might influence the results have been properly controlled.				
E11. If translation of research instruments is needed, the translation process is appropriate and has been explained.				
E12. All planned statistical analyses are appropriate.				
E13. All details of proposed statistical analyses are described clearly.				
E14. Appropriate methods for evaluating basic assumptions for statistical analyses have been proposed.				

E. Methods	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A
E15. Power analysis has been properly conducted.				
E16. If uncommonly used statistics (or statistical software) have been proposed, sufficient detail of the analysis and proper reference citations have been shown.				
E17. The research design is complied with ethical principles.				
F. References				
F1. All the references being cited within the text appear in the reference list.				
F2. All the references in the reference list have been cited in the text of the thesis proposal.				
F3. The reference citation style is conformed with Vancouver style.				
G. Appendices				
G1. All key materials of the study appear in the appendices: questionnaires, research instruments, informed consent forms, Permission to use an instrument.				
G2. Full credits of copyright holder have been made clear.				