

Professional Essay Evaluation Rubric

Beyond Expectations	Meets Expectations	Below Expectations
Essay offers an exceptionally good discussion of the choice of fields and how the candidate's thinking about them changed with professional growth.	Essay explains the choice of fields and how the candidate's thinking about them changed with professional growth.	Essay does not offer sufficient explanation for the choice of fields and how the candidate's thinking about them changed with professional growth.
Essay does an admirable job of identifying the leading issues confronting particularly the major field today, the "big questions" that the field is debating, and the kinds of research and evidence gathering that dominate current research.	Essay identifies the leading issues confronting particularly the major field today, the "big questions" that the field is debating, and the kinds of research and evidence gathering that dominate current research.	Essay does not identify sufficiently well the leading issues confronting particularly the major field today, the "big questions" that the field is debating, and the kinds of research and evidence gathering that dominate current research.
Essay offers an exceptional discussion of where the candidate stands on the big questions in the field.	Essay indicates where the candidate stands on the big questions in the field.	Essay does not indicate sufficiently clearly where the candidate stands on the big questions in the field.
Essay ventures highly original appraisals or criticism of key works in the field.	Essay ventures appraisals or criticism of key works in the field.	Essay does not venture appraisals or criticism of key works in the field.
Essay presents an exceptionally compelling discussion of the candidate's long-term ambitions as a historical scholar.	Essay presents a concise discussion of the candidate's long-term ambitions as a historical scholar.	Essay does not present an adequate discussion of the candidate's long-term ambitions as a historical scholar.
Essay offers an unusually lucid overview of the fields that the candidate has been studying.	Essay offers an overview of the fields that the candidate has been studying.	Essay offers an inadequate overview of the fields that the candidate has been studying.
Essay offers an impressive scholarly assessment of the status, direction, and needs of the fields studied.	Essay offers a scholarly assessment of the status, direction, and needs of the field studied by the candidate.	Essay is autobiographical, casual, or informal in tone, more of a "personal statement."
Essay makes an unusually compelling case for the value of the fields studied.	Essay makes a case for the value of the fields studied.	Essay does not make a sufficiently strong case for the value of the fields studied.
Essay represents exceptional writing for a graduate student.	Essay represents the candidate's best writing.	Essay does not represent the candidate's best writing.
N/A	Essay is 3,000 words long.	Essay is significantly longer or shorter than 3,000 words.

Comments: