

SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE  
HONOURS PROGRAM GUIDE  
2024 2025 Academic Year  
*(Last revised: August 29, 2024)*

*even if your supervisor may be from that department*

**Table of Contents (with hyperlinks)**

fi

## List of people and their contacts

ffi

## Program timelines and deadlines for ENVS 4599

fi

roles

Fall term timeline

Date	Action	Notes
------	--------	-------



		Supervisors and external readers should have all feedback and comments ready for the student before the presentation.
15 April 2025	Final grades submitted to the Program Coordinator.	Supervisors are responsible for collating, determining and recommending their student's ENVS4599 final grade to the Program Coordinator.
25 April 2025	End of revision process.	It is not recommended the students continue to revise their thesis past this date.
28 April 2025	Last day for submitting final thesis to the Library.	Email confirmation of library submission to be forwarded to supervisors(s) and Honours Program Coordinator to ensure your final ENVS4599 grade gets entered in Banner.
01 May 2025	Very last day for final grades submitted to Banner	This is a firm date. Beyond this date, a late grade submission form will be required, and there may be delays updating Banner with the final marks.

Note that any delays in submitting the final grade

conduct an experiment or make observations and analyze the data

demonstrate organization skills

fi

timely manner

complete all the research phases in a

## Academic Integrity









**Examination and grading procedures**  
**Fall Semester Progress Report & Grade**

ff

fi

e/ Â Íã 2,, ÐIË•X™ 6ã -1ñXác

## Final Honours Thesis Evaluation & Oral Presentation

fi

fi

fi

-

## Final Honours Thesis Evaluation (aka “the defense”) and roles

-

-

-

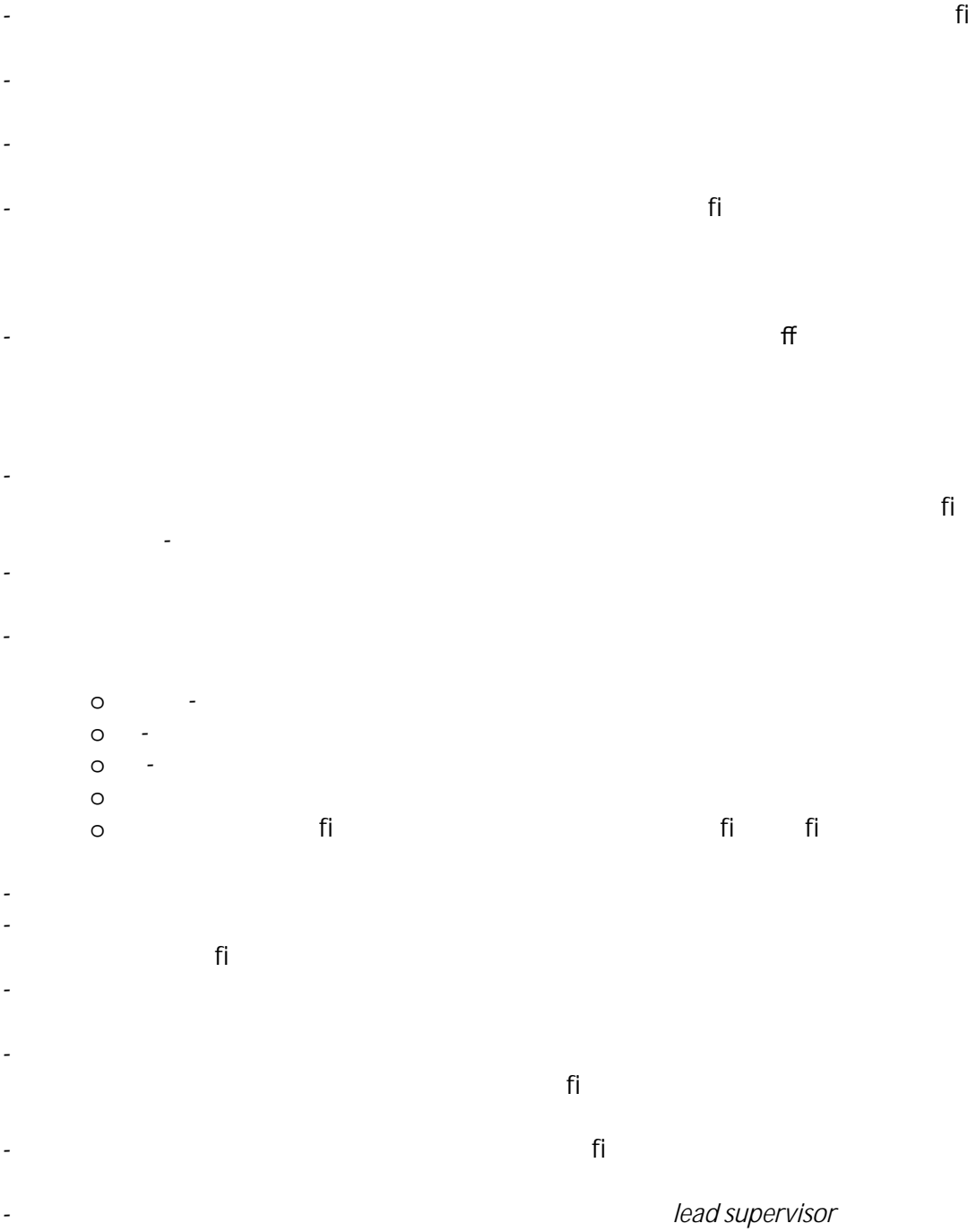
-

-

-

-

-





-

-

# Department of Environmental Science

Honours Thesis Rubric

Supervisors(s) and External Reader



Student name: \_\_\_\_\_ Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Providing brief comments will give additional feedback to the student as well as inform the post-defense deliberation among committee members. This rubric is adapted from Haggerty et al (2011)<sup>(a)</sup>.

Providing brief comments will give additional feedback to the student as well as inform the post-defense deliberation among committee members. A student who attains honors will typically receive a rating of at least satisfactory (4) on each of the dimensions below and on the rubrics connected with other facets of the thesis and defense. This is not an inviolable rule. The post-defense discussion should carefully consider the range and pattern of ratings, the rationale behind each committee member's ratings, and the relative importance of each dimension. Likewise, the ratings of a student who receives highest honors are almost always all outstanding (6)

## 1. Research question or creative challenge

Unacceptable		Marginal		Satisfactory		Outstanding	
1	2	3	4	5	6		
<p><b>Distinctiveness:</b> Unique research question/issue/creative challenge identified.</p> <p><b>Question:</b> Goals / objectives / hypotheses are explicit.</p> <p><b>Literature review:</b> Historical and contemporary contexts, theories, assumptions, biases and/or ethical considerations are identified.</p> <p><b>Structure:</b> thesis is presented within an academic framework and adheres to ENVS expectations.</p>							
<p><b>Comments:</b></p>							

## 2. Methodology / approach: development.

Unacceptable		Marginal		Satisfactory		Outstanding	
1	2	3	4	5	6		
<p>Methodology/approach is <b>appropriate</b> to disciplinary/interdisciplinary focus.</p> <p>Topic is contextualized among sources and materials <b>properly &amp; consistently cited</b> as per best practices in that disciplinary field.</p> <p><b>Multiple perspectives</b> are considered in discussion.</p> <p>Introduction and Discussion <b>demonstrates understanding</b> of the content, tools, and structures in the relevant field(s).</p>							
<p><b>Comments:</b></p>							



**3. Methodology / approach: implementation**

Unacceptable	Marginal	Satisfactory	Outstanding
1	2		

## Department of Environmental Science

### Honours Thesis Oral Presentation Rubric

All participants except for SMU undergraduate students



Student name: \_\_\_\_\_ Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Providing brief comments will give additional feedback to the student as well as inform the post-defense deliberation among committee members. This rubric is adapted from Haggerty et al (2011)<sup>(a)</sup>.

Providing brief comments will give additional feedback to the student as well as inform the post-defense deliberation among committee members. A student who attains honors will typically receive a rating of at least satisfactory (4) on each of the dimensions below and on the rubrics connected with other facets of the thesis and defense. This is not an inviolable rule. The post-defense discussion should carefully consider the range and pattern of ratings, the rationale behind each committee member's ratings, and the relative importance of each dimension. Likewise, the ratings of a student who receives highest honors are almost always all outstanding (6)

#### 1. Research question or creative challenge

Unacceptable		Marginal	Satisfactory		Outstanding
1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Distinctiveness:</b> Unique research question/issue/creative challenge identified. <b>Question:</b> Goals / objectives / hypotheses are explicit. <b>Literature review:</b> Historical and contemporary contexts, theories, assumptions, biases and/or ethical considerations are identified. <b>Structure:</b> thesis is presented within an academic framework and adheres to ENVS expectations.					
<b>Comments:</b>					

#### 2. Methodology / approach, development.

Unacceptable		Marginal	Satisfactory		Outstanding
1	2	3	4	5	6
Methodology/approach is <b>appropriate</b> to disciplinary/interdisciplinary focus. Topic is contextualized among sources and materials <b>properly &amp; consistently cited</b> as per best practices in that disciplinary field. <b>Multiple perspectives</b> are considered in discussion. Introduction and Discussion <b>demonstrates understanding</b> of the content, tools, and structures in the relevant field(s).					
<b>Comments:</b>					





**3. Methodology / approach: implementation**

Unacceptable		Marginal	Satisfactory	Outstanding	
1	2	3	4	5	6
<p><b>Research tools</b> (quantitative, qualitative, symbolic, software etc) are utilized effectively  <b>Evidence is sufficient</b> to address the research question and is well utilized                      Accuracy and relevance of evidence are appropriately questioned; <b>possible biases are identified</b>  <b>Evaluates, analyzes, and synthesizes information</b>  <b>Demonstrates understanding of professional standards</b></p>					
<p><b>Comments:</b></p>					

**4. Conclusion, implications and consequences**

Unacceptable		Marginal	Satisfactory	Outstanding	
1	2	3	4	5	6
<p><b>Conclusions, qualifications, and consequences</b>, including value of thesis, are presented  <b>Significance</b> of what was discovered, learned, or created is demonstrated  <b>Assertions are qualified</b> and well supported                      Demonstrates <b>independent and critical thought</b></p>					
<p><b>Comments:</b></p>					

