

STUDY PLAN

for

By

A proposed plan submitted to the graduate committee indicated below for
partial fulfillment of requirements for the

In the Department of Forestry, College of Forest Resources, Mississippi State University

STUDY PLAN EVALUATION

	Exceptional/Superior	Exceeds Expectations	Satisfactory	Needs Improvement	
1. Depth and breadth of the appropriate forestry background covered in their literature review relative to their thesis or dissertation topic					Major prof Co-major prof Minor prof Committee Committee Committee Committee
2. Inclusion of research aims/questions and associated hypotheses that are reasonable, testable, specific and relevant to their field of forestry and previous research in that field					Major prof Co-major prof Minor prof Committee Committee Committee Committee
3. The research methodology and subsequent analyses are well thought out to achieve tangible outcomes					Major prof Co-major prof Minor prof Committee Committee Committee Committee
4. Broader impacts of the research are appropriately identified and discussed					Major prof Co-major prof Minor prof Committee Committee Committee Committee

If a revision is needed, please describe in the box below:

Major Professor

Date

Co-Major Professor

Date

Minor Professor

Date

Committee Member

Date

Committee Member

Date

Committee Member

Date

Committee Member

Date

Graduate Coordinator

Date

Study plan rubric: Rate the student's study plan on a scale of: Exceptional/Superior, Exceeds Expectations, Satisfactory, or Needs Improvement in each of these categories:

1. Depth and breadth of the appropriate forestry background covered in their literature review relative to their thesis or dissertation topic

Exceptional / Superior – Exceptional understanding of the forestry literature and critical synthesis towards developing a new understanding relative to their thesis topic

Exceeds Expectations – Shows understanding of the forestry literature and ability to make some connections across literature topics relative to the thesis

Satisfactory – Includes basic synopsis of each forestry literature cited that adequately covers the depth and breadth of appropriate forestry background for the thesis topic

Needs Improvement – Fails to address fundamental forestry literature relative to the thesis topic

2. Inclusion of research aims/questions and associated hypotheses, where applicable, that are scientifically sound, reasonable, specific, and relevant to their field of forestry and previous research in that field

Exceptional/Superior – High level of novelty, has potential to contribute greatly to the body of knowledge of the literature, closes a large research gap with very broad application beyond region

Exceeds Expectations – Potential to make some contribution to the body of knowledge

Satisfactory – Scientifically sound, reasonable, specific and relevant to the field

Needs Improvement – Research aims are not feasible, scientifically sound, or relevant to the field of forestry

3. The research methodology and subsequent analyses are well thought out to achieve tangible outcomes appropriate to the goals and outcomes of the research.

Exceptional/Superior – Multiple approaches and data types that are all well targeted to answer the research question, develops novel analytical approaches that are appropriate to the research question, methods/analyses are new or applied in novel ways and have potential to be broadly utilized in other applications

Exceeds Expectations – clear understanding of limitations of the data and analyses are discussed and ways to mitigate these limitations are provided; use of more than one type of data/analytical approach to address research question; expands on conventional use of methodology and analyses

Satisfactory – Clear research methods, type of data collected and subsequent analyses are appropriate and likely to lead to the goals of the research

Needs Improvement – proposed data collection method does not align with proposed analytical approaches and/or research question

4. Dissemination of Results/Broader Impacts and applications of the research are appropriately identified and discussed.

Exceptional/Superior - Specific plan for dissemination and application of a study with broad ranging impacts on society, could also include a plan to develop patents/applications

Exceeds Expectations - Strong connection between research and its potential impact; specific plan to deliver research results at professional meetings and in peer reviewed publications

Satisfactory – Logical connection for how the research and results can impact society; includes justification for the why the research is broadly important

Needs Improvement – Connections for how research and results impact society are unreasonable and/or unclear; no consideration for dissemination of research results