

**University of Wyoming  
Department of Atmospheric Science**

## M.S. Thesis Defense Assessment

*Date of Defense* :

*Thesis Title* :

*Committee member name:*

Criteria/ Guidance	Comments	Grade* (A-F)
<b>1. Presentation performance:</b> clarity of speech, coherence, quality of illustrations, ability to engage audience		
<b>2. Research performance:</b> does this defense represent, original research of scope and depth that is expected of an M.S. thesis?		
<b>3. Quality of responses to audience questions:</b> Are the student's answers clear and thorough?		
<b>4. Quality of responses to committee during thesis defense:</b> Does the student demonstrate critical thinking skills, and a deep understanding of the material?		

\*A - Excellent; C - Marginal Pass; F - Fail

**2. Thesis**

Criteria	Comments	PASS/MINOR/ MAJOR/REJECT*
<b>1. Introduction:</b> states the research problem clearly, provides convincing motivation for undertaking the research		
<b>2. Literature:</b> is aware of relevant prior published work, and uses this effectively to frame the research		
<b>3. Methods:</b> discusses data sources and analysis techniques in sufficient depth/ detail		
<b>4. Results:</b> analyses data effectively, interprets findings clearly		
<b>5. Illustrations:</b> provides clear, publication-quality figures and tables		
<b>6. Discussion:</b> clearly communicates the implications and limitations of the findings; addresses broader impacts and steps that can be taken for further research		
<b>7. Conclusions:</b> provides clearly stated, succinct conclusions that are warranted by the findings		
<b>8. Publications and conference presentations:</b> # of lead-author oral/poster presentations, # of peer-review publications in review / accepted		

- \* PASS: satisfactory  
 MINOR: requires minor revision, assessed by advisor only (no need for committee to re-assess)  
 MAJOR: requires major revision (significant improvements), must be re-assessed by committee.  
 REJECT: must be rewritten