**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) |
| **1. Presentation performance**: clarity of speech, coherence, quality of illustrations, ability to engage audience  |  |  |
| **2. Research performance**: does this defense represent, original research of scope and depth that is expected of an M.S. thesis?  |  |  |
| 3. **Quality of responses to audience questions**: Are the student’s answers clear and thorough?  |  |  |
| 4. **Quality of responses to committee during thesis defense:** 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\* |
| **1. Introduction**: states the research problem clearly, provides convincing motivation for undertaking the research  |  |  |
| **2. Literature**: is aware of relevant prior published work, and uses this effectively to frame the research |  |  |
| 3. **Methods**: discusses data sources and analysis techniques in sufficient depth/ detail  |  |  |
| 4. **Results**: analyses data effectively, interprets findings clearly |  |  |
| 5. **Illustrations**: provides clear, publication-quality figures and tables |  |  |
| 6. **Discussion**: clearly communicates the implications and limitations of the findings; addresses broader impacts and steps that can be taken for further research |  |  |
| 7. **Conclusions**: provides clearly stated, succinct conclusions that are warranted by the findings |  |  |
| 8. **Publications and conference presentations**: # 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