

BIOINFORMATICS & SYSTEMS BIOLOGY GRADUATE PROGRAM

Second Year Qualifying Exam EVALUATION FORM – Page 1 of 2

Please deliver the completed form to the Bioinformatics & Systems Biology Graduate Program office, PFBH 141, MC 0419, bioinfo@ucsd.edu

The research proposition of (student name): _____

Title of proposal: _____

Oral examination was conducted on (date, time): _____

Please check your decision and sign next to your name

Approval	Disapproval	Committee Member	Member's Signature
		(Chair)	

Instructions: The second-year qualifying examination is designed to examine the student's ability to think critically, analytically, and independently, and to apply the skills acquired in classes to a real research project. The subject of the exam is the student's current research project, but the focus is the student's critical analytical ability and command of relevant methods and subjects. In this vein, committee members may ask general questions that, while originally prompted by the student's proposal, are intended to test the student's depth of knowledge in significant areas of bioinformatics or systems biology.

The exam consists of two components: a ten page written proposal and an oral exam. Both written and oral formats should have the following sections, in line with NIH proposals (page counts are for the written proposal, and will differ for oral presentation slides):

Specific Aims: A one page description of specific objectives of the project.

Significance and Preliminary Data: The report must clearly articulate the significance of the proposed activity, and describe preliminary work that illustrates the promise of the approach. We expect this part to be the bulk of the proposal (5-7 pages).

Approach: A 2-3 page description of what the student proposes to do to extend the preliminary results and to achieve the specific aims.

References: In addition, the proposal should cite, and provide references to, related work in the area. The bibliography is not included in the ten page limit.

The second component is the oral exam, where the student defends their proposal. Again, we expect the student to spend the bulk of the time describing their preliminary data.

**PERFORMANCE ON 2nd YEAR QUALIFYING EXAMINATION
CONFIDENTIAL EVALUATION – Page 2 of 2**

STUDENT: _____ DATE: _____

Score the student's performance in each aspect:

	Poor	Below Average	Average	Above Average	Excellent
Evaluate the Student's Proposal:					
Originality (or close to advisor's record)					
Familiarity with scientific literature					
Ability to phrase question					
Ability to design experiments/analysis					
Consideration of alternatives					
Organization, clarity of written proposal					
Organization of oral presentation					
Evaluate the Student's Skills:					
Critical thinking / scientific judgment					
Competence in statistics					
Algorithmic skills					
Understanding of data/databases					
Understanding experimental approaches					

Please use the other side for additional comments

Please comment on the **strengths** of the student's overall performance:

Please comment on the **weaknesses** of the student's overall performance:

Does the Committee have **any concerns** about the student or the suitability of the thesis advisor?