RESEARCH PROPOSAL RUBRIC

	Advanced Competence	Competence	Emerging Competence	Insufficient Competence	Possible Points
Introduction & Literature Review (30)	Selects a critical topic for social work research and composes a well-constructed introduction clearly following funnel technique.	Selects an appropriate topic for social work research and composes a strong introduction following funnel technique.	Selects a topic for social work research and composes an introduction generally following funnel technique.	Selects a topic for social work research and composes an introduction that lacks clarity and/or does not follow funnel technique.	10
	Research question/hypothesis is well-crafted, innovative, and empirically testable.	Research question/hypothesis is clear, timely/relevant, and empirically testable.	Research question/hypothesis is well-established/well-researched and empirically testable.	Research question/hypothesis is unclear and/or not empirically testable.	
	Identifies several key themes within current research literature – with a clear focus on empirical evidence.	Identifies a few key themes within current research literature – generally focused on empirical evidence.	Discusses general themes related to selected topic with little or no emphasis on empirical literature but general information.	Limited discussion on key themes related to selected topic or connections are unclear.	10
	Thoughtfully identifies how current study not only fits within the existing literature but contributes to it.	Identifies how current study fits within the existing literature.	Some difficulty identifying how current study fits within the existing literature.	Difficulty identifying how current study fits within existing literature.	10
	Advanced Competence	**Competence**	**Emerging Competence**	**Insufficient Competence**	**Possible Points**
Methodology (30)	Skillfully develops a methodological plan for conducting social work research on the selected problem area and thoroughly describes all required aspects of the research design/technique.	Appropriately develops a methodological plan for conducting social work research on the selected problem area and describes most required aspects of the research design/technique.	Some difficulty developing a methodological plan for conducting social work research on the selected problem area and/or describing required aspects of the research design/technique.	Difficulty developing a methodological plan for conducting social work research on the selected problem area and/or describing required aspects of the research design/technique.	10
	Strong and thoughtful conceptualization and operationalization of concepts/variables evident.	Appropriate conceptualization and operationalization of concepts/variables evident.	Some difficulty with conceptualization and/or operationalization of concepts/variables evident.	Difficulty with conceptualization and operationalization of concepts/variables evident.	
	Strong and thoughtful selection of sampling methods for selected research question evident.	Appropriate selection of sampling methods for selected research design evident.	Some difficulty with selection of sampling methods for selected research design evident.	Difficulty with selection of sampling methods for selected research design evident.	10
	Strong and thoughtful consideration of ethical obligations and efforts to reduce potential harm to study participants evident.	Appropriate consideration of ethical obligations and efforts to reduce potential harm to study participants evident.	Some difficulty with consideration of ethical obligations and efforts to reduce potential harm to study participants evident.	Difficulty with consideration of ethical obligations and/or efforts to reduce potential harm to study participants evident.	10

	Advanced Competence	Competence	Emerging Competence	Insufficient Competence	Possible Points
Data Analysis Plan and Discussion (25)	Composes a thoughtful plan for data analysis that is clearly and directly connected with the methodology of the current study.	Composes an appropriate plan for data analysis that clearly relates to the methodology of the current study.	Composes a plan for data analysis that clearly relates to the methodology of the current study with some need for elaboration.	Composes a plan for data analysis that relates to the methodology of the current study with identified errors.	20
	Detailed and accurate discussion of plans for interpretation, benefits and limitations, and use of present study.	Appropriate discussion of plans for interpretation, benefits and limitations, and use of present study.	Discussion of plans for interpretation, benefits and limitations, and use of present study with some need for elaboration.	Discussion of plans for interpretation, benefits and limitations, and use of present study with identified errors.	5
	Advanced Competence	**Competence**	**Emerging Competence**	**Insufficient Competence**	**Deductions**
Formatting (Not Graded)	Correctly employs all elements of APA formatting and citation and demonstrates a full understanding of the ethical and legal restrictions on the use of published, confidential, and/or proprietary information.	Correctly employs most elements of APA formatting and citation and demonstrates a full understanding of the ethical and legal restrictions on the use of published, confidential, and/or proprietary information.	Correctly employs some elements of APA formatting and citation and demonstrates a general understanding of the ethical and legal restrictions on the use of published, confidential, and/or proprietary information.	Demonstrates difficulty in consistent use of APA formatting and citation including concerns about ethical and legal restrictions	
Syntax (Not Graded)	Uses skillful language that thoroughly communicates meaning to readers and is virtually error-free (grammar, typographical).	Uses straightforward language that generally conveys meaning to readers and has few errors (grammar, typographical).	Uses language that generally conveys meaning to readers and may include some errors (grammar, typographical).	Uses language that sometimes impedes meaning because of errors in usage (grammar, typographical).	