

**Graduate Assessment Rubric for the Master of Science**

This rubric documents outcomes assessment for our graduate program Master of Science (M.S./CVEN). It must be completed by the chair of the student’s faculty committee, in collaboration with the full committee, at the time of the master’s defense. It is also used for doctoral students at the time of the comprehensive exam. Assessment is based on two products, (1) the student’s draft master’s report, master’s thesis, or dissertation proposal, and (2) the student’s oral presentation, including the slide deck.

	Below Proficient	Proficient	Above Proficient
Technical Ability • fundamentals • policy and methods • professional judgment	Student uncertain with principal concepts, unaware of relevant policy and methods, and unable to explain choices or judgments.	Student shows proficiency with principal concepts, awareness of relevant policy and methods, and reasoned choices and judgment.	Student shows mastery of principal concepts, fluency with relevant policies and methods, and rigorous basis for choices and judgment.
Communication Skills • focused • structured • persuasive	Student tentative, lengthy, and unfocused, lacking organization and structure, so presentation is hard to follow. Written products hampered by structural, grammar, or spelling errors. Oral defense shows lack of depth in topic.	Student minimizes unnecessary writing and speaking, using a general organization and structure, so presentation is comprehensible. Written products suitable for presentation at conference or in journal after editing. Oral defense shows comfort with topic.	Student is deliberate, concise, and focused, with clear and consistent organization and structure, so presentation is persuasive. Written products ready for presentation at conference or in refereed journal. Fluent debate in oral defense.
Scholarly Achievement • original idea • contextualized • conclusions valid	Student struggles to explain idea, which lacks context to the technical literature.	Student articulates an original idea that is presented in the context of the relevant technical literature.	Potential for impact demonstrated by grant proposals, patent applications, or plans for startup companies.
Research Methods • modeling, laboratory, or field	Research methods are incomplete or inappropriate.	Research methods are appropriate but need some modification.	Research methods are appropriate and innovative.

