

**Molecular Medicine and Translational Science  
PhD Candidate Preliminary Exam and Post-Exam Development Plan**

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Preliminary Exam: \_\_\_\_\_ Advancement: YES  NO  pending revisions

Advisor:

Committee members:  Chair:

Other Members:





**Hypothesis or Experimental Question**

The student must have a hypothesis or experimental question that is clearly stated, testable, and well-justified. The rationale (scientific foundation) for this hypothesis or question must be clear, and the student must be able to defend his/her proposed hypothesis or question.

**Comments:**

*Add rating at end of comments: Scale – 1-5 (low rate 1 – high rate 5)*

**Experimental Approach**

The experimental approach must be clearly described and logical. The approach must directly test the hypothesis or experimental question. Discussion of expected and alternative outcomes, potential pitfalls, and alternative approaches must be included.

**Comments:**

*Add rating at end of comments: Scale – 1-5 (low rate 1 – high rate 5)*

**Background Knowledge**

The student must display a deep understanding of the Preliminary Exam topic and supporting literature. The student must also have broad knowledge of the general biomedical sciences and experimental approaches, especially in their specific field of study.

**Comments:**

*Add rating at end of comments: Scale – 1-5 (low rate 1 – high rate 5)*

**Oral Presentation**

The student must be able to clearly articulate and describe the research proposal. The student must be able to defend his/her rationale for specific approaches and respond to critiques in a professional manner. Overall oral communication skills are evaluated in this section.

*Add rating at end of comments: Scale – 1-5 (low rate 1 – high rate 5)*

**Post-Exam Development**

If deficiencies in the student's development were identified during the preliminary exam, they should be listed with a recommended course of action. The thesis committee will then monitor progress in the student's development at future committee meetings.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*Forward completed and signed MMTS preliminary exam evaluation form to MMTS Administration*

Once your committee confirms your advancement, the Graduate School's PhD Candidacy form is accessible in Canvas in the MMTS Program Canvas page. Click on Modules then find Academic Progress workflow which will navigate you through all of the required components for completion. Initiate the form and it will then route to appropriate departments. If you need assistance, contact the Graduate School.