

Prospectus Assessment

Department of Biological Sciences, California State University Los Angeles

Title:

Student Name:

Advisor:

Date:

Assessor:

VP= very poor (-2), P= poor (-1); A=acceptable (0), G=good (+1), VG=very good (+2)

Title

VP	P	A	G	VG
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Does the title convey the specific nature of the proposed study?

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Is the title properly formatted?

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Abstract

Is a hypothesis or objective included?

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Is an overview of the methods included?

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Are expected results and their significance included?

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Is the abstract comprehensible to a general audience?

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Is the abstract free of acronyms, abbreviations, technical jargon?

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Objectives

Is a hypothesis or objective clearly stated?

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Background

Is sufficient background information presented?

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Is the background information presented as a logically developed synthesis of relevant information?

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Is all published and unpublished work discussed properly cited?

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Does the student explain the relevance of the background information to the hypothesis (or objectives)?

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Overview of the Study Design

Is the conceptual approach to the study presented?

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Data Interpretation

VP	P	A	G	VG
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Are the expected results and possible alternatives clearly explained?

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Does the student explain how results would either support, refute, or refine the hypothesis?

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Significance

Does the student clearly explain how the proposed work will fill gaps in current knowledge?

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Is the contribution to the advancement of scientific knowledge and the good of humanity addressed?

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Does the project lay the foundation for further research?

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Budget

Does the budget itemize the major expenses?

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Does the budget specify the source of funds to be used to defray these expenses?

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References

Has information based on the work of others been referenced?

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Are all references in the text included in the reference list?

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Are all references in the list mentioned in the text?

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Do the references conform to a single, appropriate format?

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General Considerations

Is the content intelligible to a life scientist outside of the specific field?

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Does the prospectus conform to the formatting guidelines?

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Is sentence structure acceptable?

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Is paragraph structure acceptable?

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Are spelling and punctuation correct?

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If appropriate, have complex ideas, designs and methods been clarified by figures and flow charts?

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