

Department of English
The University of Mississippi M.F.A. Assessment
Rubric for Scoring Written M.F.A. Examination: Place a score of 10-1 (Excellent to Poor)
for each of the four categories and then total results.

Date _____ Candidate _____ Please return to Grad Program Coordinator

Excellent	Good	Poor	Score 10-1
<p><u>Quality of Ideas</u> 10-9 Original contribution to the field of study. Well-written arguments that convey insight born of deep study. Excellent synthesis of various texts, authors, and techniques.</p>	<p><u>Quality of Ideas</u> 8-6 Acceptable contribution to the field of study. Satisfactorily written arguments that convey insight born of study. Adequate synthesis of various texts, authors, and techniques.</p>	<p><u>Quality of Ideas</u> 5-1 Does not make an original contribution to the chosen field. Inadequately written arguments that reveal little insight. Insufficiently skilled synthesis of authors, texts, and techniques.</p>	<p><u>Quality of Ideas</u></p>
<p><u>Quality of Writing</u> 10-9 Excellent presentation of ideas in clear organization. Content is presented with major and minor points addressed to full satisfaction. Writer displays graceful and convincing prose.</p>	<p><u>Quality of Writing</u> 8-6 Good presentation of ideas in fairly clear organization. Content developed to a satisfactory degree. Major points addressed; minor points addressed to a limited degree. Writer displays adequate prose skills.</p>	<p><u>Quality of Writing</u> 5-1 Poor presentation of ideas and poor organization. Content needs rethinking and is either underdeveloped or insufficient. Little emphasis on major and minor points. Writer displays poor prose skills.</p>	<p><u>Quality of Writing</u></p>
<p><u>Breadth of Knowledge</u> 10-9 Displays breadth of knowledge of the canon and of various historical periods as well as deep familiarity with contemporary works of the student's choosing. Thorough survey of relevant literature.</p>	<p><u>Breadth of Knowledge</u> 8-6 Displays adequate breadth of knowledge of the canon and of various historical periods as well as fairly deep familiarity with contemporary works of the student's choosing. Good survey of relevant literature.</p>	<p><u>Breadth of Knowledge</u> 5-1 Does not display adequate breadth of knowledge of the canon or of various historical periods, and does not display enough familiarity with contemporary works. Insufficient survey of relevant literature.</p>	<p><u>Breadth of Knowledge</u></p>
<p><u>Technical Aspects of Writing</u> 10-9 Professional writing style; perfect sense of audience and tone. Professional vocabulary appropriate to methodology. Flawless grammar and usage. Bibliographic sources are useful, and MLA style is perfect.</p>	<p><u>Technical Aspects of Writing</u> 8-6 Near professional writing style; good sense of audience and appropriate tone. Some misuse of or imprecision with professional vocabulary or terminology. Good use of grammar with few weaknesses in punctuation, spelling, or proofreading. Sources are mostly appropriate. MLA style shows minor imperfections</p>	<p><u>Technical Aspects of Writing</u> 5-1 Pre-professional writing style. Inadequate sense of audience and tone. Major misuse of terminology and professional vocabulary. Frequent errors in spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage. Sources missing or not helpful. Many errors in MLA format.</p>	<p><u>Technical Aspects of Writing</u></p>
<p>Total:</p>			

Scoring results: Excellent 40-36; Good 35-24; Poor 23-4