

ASB Graduate Student Research Grant Scoring Rubric

Proposal (85 points available)

Criteria	Does Not Meet Requirements (1)	Partially Meets Requirements (2)	Meets Requirements (3)	Exceeds Requirements (4)	Weight	Total
Specific Aims <i>including clear, testable hypotheses and relevance to biomechanics</i>	The specific aims are included but are unclear or redundant. There is limited relevance to biomechanics. Hypotheses are poorly formulated or not testable.	The specific aims are stated clearly but lack logical progression from the background. The connection to biomechanics is present but not emphasized. Hypotheses are defined but not fully developed or testable.	Specific aims are clearly stated and logically follow from the background and significance. Hypotheses are well-defined and testable. There is a clear connection to biomechanics, and the relevance is articulated.	Specific aims are innovative, clearly defined, and demonstrate significant impact on biomechanics. Hypotheses are original, well-articulated, and testable. The relevance to biomechanics is strongly justified.	6.25	/25
Significance/Background <i>including importance of research question, impact, and gaps in existing literature, as well as, relevant and varied references</i>	Limited discussion of why the research is important, knowledge gaps, or technical issues. Few references are provided, and those included may not be relevant or up to date.	Adequate discussion of the research significance and knowledge gaps, but lacks depth in some areas. Relevant references are included but may be incomplete.	Comprehensive discussion of why the research is important, the knowledge gaps addressed, and relevant methodological considerations. Most references are current and pertinent.	Provides a comprehensive and well-detailed justification of the significance of the research. Clearly explains the societal and scientific impact, supported by varied and up-to-date references.	6.25	/25
Innovation <i>can refer to new methodologies, original approaches, or enhancements to existing concepts in biomechanics</i>	The proposal includes little to no innovative elements. The approach closely mirrors existing work.	Contains some innovative components but lacks a significant departure from current research.	The proposal clearly outlines innovative aspects that provide an advancement over existing approaches or concepts.	The proposal is exceptionally creative, challenging current paradigms, or introducing novel concepts with significant potential impact.	1.25	/5
Approach <i>including methods, limitations, alternatives, future directions, sample size, participant demographics, and expected outcomes</i>	Methods are inadequately presented or incomplete. There is no sample size calculation or discussion of limitations. References are insufficient or irrelevant.	Most methods are adequately described, but some aspects may be inappropriate or unclear. No sample size calculation provided. Most references are relevant but some may be missing.	Methods are well-detailed and appropriate, with a clear description of how the research will be conducted. Sample size calculation is included. The majority of references are relevant and supportive.	The methodology is comprehensive, with clear descriptions of procedures, participants, variables, and analyses. Limitations, alternative strategies, and future directions are addressed. Sample size calculation and preliminary results are included if applicable.	6.25	/25
Budget with Justification <i>including justification for expenditures, and if applicable, demonstrate need</i>	Budget is unclear or lacks detail. There may be ineligible expenses listed, and the justification for the budget is insufficient.	Budget is clear and includes only eligible expenses, but the justification is not thoroughly explained.	Budget is well-detailed, contains only eligible expenses, and is supported by a clear justification for each cost.	The budget is comprehensive, with detailed justification for each item and demonstration of need.	1.25	/5

Applicant (15 points available)

Criteria	Does Not Meet Requirements (1)	Partially Meets Requirements (2)	Meets Requirements (3)	Exceeds Requirements (4)	Weight	Total
Biosketch <i>establishes the student's ability to perform the proposed project. Note: Extensive prior experience is not required. The focus is on the applicant's ability to clearly demonstrate their potential to perform the proposed tasks, regardless of past opportunities</i>	<p>The biosketch is missing or does not sufficiently establish the applicant's qualifications to carry out the proposed research. It lacks relevant information or has significant issues with format, making it difficult to assess ability.</p>	<p>The biosketch is present and demonstrates some ability to perform tasks, but is missing justification or examples of ability. It may have formatting issues or be incomplete, with relevant skills or potential only partially linked to the project.</p>	<p>The biosketch is clear and well-structured, demonstrating the applicant's ability to complete the project. Justification is present, though there may be minor gaps. The document is properly formatted and provides sufficient evidence of the applicant's potential to complete the project.</p>	<p>The biosketch is comprehensive, clear, and demonstrates the applicant's ability to perform the proposed tasks with strong justification and well-articulated examples. The document is properly formatted with no missing elements, and the student's potential is convincingly linked to the project.</p>	10	/10
Recommendation Letter <i>includes academic advisor's support, establishes student's ability to perform project, and may establish any specific funding needs related to personal, institutional, or structural disadvantage</i>	<p>The letter of recommendation is missing or does not provide sufficient support for the applicant.</p>	<p>The letter is present and provides some information on the student's ability, but lacks sufficient detail or examples. Relevant skills or potential are touched on but the letter does not strongly justify the student's qualifications for the project.</p>	<p>The letter of recommendation is positive and generally supportive of the student, with sufficient support of the student's capacity or ability to complete the project.</p>	<p>The letter of recommendation provides clear support for the student and includes statements regarding the need and student's ability to successfully conduct the proposed project.</p>	5	/5
Total Available Points						/100