RICE NATURAL SCIENCES
Earth, Environmental and Planetary Sciences

Thesis Defense Rubric

Student:	Date:

Expectations:	Below	Meets	Exceeds
Techniques in the Conduct of Research Investigations			
Research focus is clear and compelling			
Arguments are of excellent quality			
Objectives are well defined and articulated			
Exhibits superior critical analytic skills			
Highly refined analysis of research problem and literature			
Mastery of computational or analytical methods relevant to research			
Supportive materials are strong			
Hypotheses are well-developed and connected to analyses			
Sampling is appropriate and well justified			
Skills in Scientific Communication			
Design has excellent alignment with focus of research			
Writing is of publication quality			
No grammatical or spelling errors apparent			
Organization is excellent			
Contribution to Discipline			
Exceptional potential for discovery			
Significantly furthers knowledge from previous works			
Published			