



RICE NATURAL SCIENCES  
Earth, Environmental  
and Planetary Sciences

Qualifying Exam Rubric

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

	Expectations:	Below	Meets	Exceeds
Evaluation - Proposal #1				
Project demonstrates broad knowledge of Earth systems				
Describes a novel problem appropriate for a Ph.D.				
Research plan is well defined and articulated				
Exhibits critical analytic skills				
Computational or analytical methods are relevant to research				
Supportive materials are strong				
Hypotheses are well-developed and connected to analyses				
Arguments are of excellent quality				
Design is aligned with focus of research				
No grammatical or spelling errors apparent				
Discusses previous works, using them in context for present project				
Presentation is well organized and clearly presented				
Responses to questions demonstrate depth of knowledge in subject matter				

Evaluation - Proposal #2				
Project demonstrates broad knowledge of Earth systems				
Significantly unique from first proposal				
Good organization, fluent prose and few grammatical errors				
Design is aligned with focus of research				
No grammatical or spelling errors apparent				
Discusses previous works, using them in context for present project				