

Rubric for ranking proposals for the GSRA

Do the proposed activities have the potential to lead to successful data collection/analysis and support the initialization or completion of the applicant's graduate research in systematics?

Category	Excellent (5)	Very Good (4)	Good (3)	Fair (2)	Poor (1)
Goals, objectives, hypothesis	Includes achievable goals and a timeline. Objectives appropriate for testing the hypotheses proposed.	Same as for excellent but perhaps one objective less clear than others.	One or more objectives seem disconnected from goal and hypothesis.	Lacking goals or objectives. Objectives not related to proposed hypotheses/questions.	Project's purpose is unclear, objectives are not appropriate for meeting proposed goal.
Plan, methods, schedule	Clearly outlined plan, activities are well defined, strongly link to project goals, and coherent with schedule.	Plans, use of funds, and schedule are stated. Methods are generally sufficient for meeting project goals.	One of plans, use of funds, or schedule is missing or unconnected to goals.	Design is vague, proposer's grasp of methods is unclear/insufficient, schedule lacking.	Methods are not clearly linked to, or are not appropriate for, project goals. Plan unlikely to lead to success.
Significance	Proposal addresses a consequential question in the field of systematics.	Proposal addresses an interesting, but less novel/critical, question in systematics.	Proposal is somewhat novel/critical but presented as taxon-specific.	Significance is narrow, completely taxon-specific, or is not stated clearly.	Significance is not stated.
Relationship to systematics	Proposal clearly addresses how the project is related to systematics.	Project fits broadly within systematics but proposal does not strongly make this link.	Project fits within systematics but this link is not stated.	Proposal is only incidentally related to systematics.	Unrelated to systematics.