Interdepartmental Biochemistry Program
Preliminary Examinations Evaluation

Student Name:_____Prelim Date: _____

Part I. Evaluation of examination components

Please evaluate the student on a scale of 0-6, as described below.

6 = Truly Outstanding. Best work the committee has seen in several years.
5 = Excellent. Top 10% among students you have seen; few if any weaknesses.
4 = Very Good
3 = Good
2 = Marginal
1= Poor
0 = Very poor

A) Written proposal. **Score: _____**
How well is the proposal written?

Comments:

B) Written exam. **Score: _____**

Comments:

C) Seminar **Score: _____**

Comments:

D) Oral Exam **Score: _____**

Comments:

Part II. Evaluation of overall student progress. Students must pass each of these components to be admitted to Candidacy for the Ph.D. degree. A student may make terrific progress in some areas, with glaring weaknesses in others.

Please evaluate the student on a scale of 0-6, as described below. *For any areas with a score < 3, please suggest steps student needs to take to overcome this deficiency.*

6 = Truly Outstanding. Best work the committee has seen in several years.
5 = Excellent. Top 10% among students you have seen; few if any weaknesses.
4 = Very Good. Clearly at the desired level for a 3rd year student.
3 = Good. Meets the desired standards, but has weaknesses to address.
2 = Marginal. Some strengths, but major weaknesses.
1= Poor. Clearly not at level of Ph.D. Candidate.
0 = Very poor. Little to no progress in this area.

A) Research Progress. Has the student been sufficiently productive in the lab that it is likely s/he will earn a Ph.D. in the next 30-36 months? Is the quality of the work sufficient for publication?

Score: _____

Comments:

B) Understanding of Research Project.

- Has the student taken intellectual ownership of his/her research project?
- Does the student understand project goals in detail?
- Does s/he understand the background literature in the field?
- Does s/he understand not jut the conclusions that other researchers have drawn, but also the experiments leading to those conclusions?
- Can the student plan and execute experiments independently?
- Are the breadth and depth of the student's understanding adequate?

Score: _____

Comments:

C) Plan for Completion of the Ph.D. degree.

- Is the proposed work significant?
- Has feasibility been demonstrated? If not, in what time frame do you expect key preliminary experiments to be completed?
- Is the proposed work appropriately focused? If not, which directions are most important to pursue?
- Is the proposed work likely to result in a high-quality Ph.D. thesis in 30-36 months?

Score: _____

Comments:

D) Biochemical Literacy.

- Does the student have a sufficiently deep understanding of basic biochemistry and related fields?
- Does the student read broadly in high-impact journals?
- Does the student attend seminars and think about the ideas and results presented?

Score: _____

Comments:

Signed (Electronic signature acceptable):

Chair

Committee Member

Committee Member