**Rubric 3: Want to Qualify for *Best Thesis Award*? Here’s how!**

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| **Characteristic/Quality** | | **Exceptional** | **Standard** | **Not Passing** |
| **Science** | ***Novelty*** | Expands and extends research scope of advisor | Presents an advance within an established area of research suggested by advisor | Does not work with an advisor or does nothing new |
| ***Data*** | Collects or collates important data, with well-characterized precision and accuracy | Collects or collates data, useful to a larger scientific community | Data are of little or no value |
| ***Analysis/Significance*** | Unexpected results/a breakthrough | New results, or confirmations of null hypothesis, of broad interest | No clear results from work |
| ***Product*** | Thesis is a manuscript ready for submission to a journal | Thesis is close to manuscript form, and with work, can be submitted for publication | Thesis is not publishable in any form; would be rejected without review |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Student Contribution** | ***Problem*** | Identifies the problem/hypothesis and methods of solution independent of advisor | Selects a problem and approach provided by adviser; develops clear tests of hypotheses | Does not work with an adviser; does not contribute to design of or approach to problem in any way |
| ***Independence*** | Independently discovers new hypotheses and tests | Student works on assigned project independently | Needs help every step of the way |
| ***Context*** | Independently finds new papers, collaborators, etc. that broaden impact and relevance of study | Student reads assigned papers and can place their research into scientific context | No idea of relevant publications, or of an external sci. community interested in their work |