**Thesis I: Practice & Integrative Learning Experiences**

**Rubric for Thesis Proposal – 20 points**

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| ASSESSMENT CATEGORIES | NOTES | SCORE |
| INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND   * Describes scope and significance of a public health or methodological issue * Public health or methodological issue is clearly defined and carefully justified * Comprehensive review and synthesis of existing knowledge/sources of information relevant to the public health or methodological issue * Identifies and links relevant literature * Provides evidence of familiarity and understanding of relevant literature to the public health or methodological issue * Identification of relevant gap(s) in the literature and explicitly states how the study will fill the gap(s) | * Synthesis of literature needs to be stronger. A lot of information is included which has not been linked to the topic, or extra information has been provided which could lead readers to different directions, without tying to the research question | 4.5/5 points |
| RESEARCH QUESTION   * Research question is based on relevant and appropriate public health or methodological concepts and supported by up-to-date scientific literature and studies * Clearly delineated, fully formulated research question(s) leading to appropriate hypotheses in a systematic and valid manner | * It is not clearly delineated in the introduction section. Later in methods research question and hypothesis are provided, but hypothesis needs to be aligned with statistical analyses section | 3/3 points |
| METHODS   * Study design, sample, measures, data collection procedures and statistical analysis plan are presented in detail and justified * Appropriate statistical approach is proposed for analysis * Procedures for handling discrepant cases adequately described, including inclusion/exclusion criteria, if applicable * Address complex survey design, if applicable * Software package is clearly described * Overall research design and methods clearly and logically presented * Limitations and biases outlined – 1 point | * Study inclusion/exclusion criteria not clear * Measures not discussed clearly * Several variables in the table have not been discussed in the text and no details have been provided about how they will be used in statistical models. * Statistical analysis plan does not include details about what approaches or models will be used and what estimates will be reported or compared. | 3/5 points |
| TIMELINE   * Explicitly defines specific activities/tasks by week (week 1, week 2, week 3, etc.) | * Need to rethink some steps | 3/3 points |
| WRITING   * Quality of writing is very good to excellent – presented as formal, scientific writing * No grammatical or spelling errors * Critical, clear and logical presentation of information; bridging of ideas is evident * Accurate citations and in text presentation correct – AMA style * Appropriate references (majority peer-reviewed) | * Font sizes and types not consistent * Need to condense and tighten the writing – redundancies and inaccurate use of scientific terms * Spelling errors | 3.75/4 points |