

Social Sciences STAR Project Statement Rubric (Revised Fall 2024)

| Score | 5 Outstanding | 4 Very good | 3 Some concerns | 2 Major concerns | 1 Unsatisfactory |
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| 1. Clear problem to be addressed | Author offers clear articulation of the problem to be addressed. | Author identifies issue/problem. | Author identifies a questionable issue/problem. | Author includes a vague statement of issue/problem. | Author does not state issue/problem. |
| 2. Overview of relevant literature | Author demonstrates obvious understanding of the project relevance by succinctly summarizing existing literature connected to the current project. | Existing literature was well summarized, and connections were articulated. | Background information was relevant, but connections were not clearly articulated. | Some relevant background information was included, but not connected. | Does not demonstrate familiarity with existing literature, or make connections. |
| 3. Specific project objectives/hypotheses | Author offers clear articulation of their specific objectives/hypotheses. | Author identifies specific research objectives/hypotheses. | Author presents a questionable research objective/hypothesis. | Author provides ambiguous or inarticulate research objective/hypotheses. | No research research objectives/hypotheses provided, or complete mismatch with goals stated in literature overview. |
| 4. Methodology/Approach | Author thoroughly describes methodology/approach. There is a clear justification for why this approach was chosen and why it is appropriate to fulfill the objectives. | Author describes methodology/approach and a good explanation about appropriateness of approach is included. | Author describes methodology/approach, but includes limited discussion about its appropriateness. | Author includes methodology/approach, but it is inaccurately described or poorly justified. | Lacking an explanation and/or justification of the research methodology/approach to be used, or application of faulty methods. |
| 5. Anticipated outcome | Author thoughtfully describes the anticipated final outcome of the research project both in terms of anticipated research findings and how they will be disseminated. | Author describes anticipated research findings and how they will be disseminated. | Author describes anticipated research findings and how they will be disseminated, but some concerns about practicality of findings or their dissemination. | Author includes limited discussion of the anticipated final product or how findings will be disseminated. | The anticipated final product was not identified. |

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| 6. Discussion of big picture | Author includes eloquent discussion of how outcomes of the project contribute to the topic of interest, and shows the clear value of the project towards advancing knowledge. | Author includes discussion of how outcomes of the project will contribute to the topic of interest, and shows potential value of the project towards advancing knowledge. | Author includes discussion of how outcomes of the project contribute to the topic of interest, but there are some concerns about the value of the project towards advancing knowledge. | Author includes limited discussion of how outcomes advance knowledge. | No discussion of how the project advances knowledge. |
| 7. Timeline (based on separate document upload) | Timeline very clearly articulates realistic and effective activities and goals that the mentor and student will perform each week of the 10-wk program. Need for full-time summer research funding is clear based on the scope of the project. | Timeline articulates realistic and effective activities and goals, with some detail about the need for full-time summer research funding. | Timeline was included, but limited detail means the need for full-time summer research funding is unclear. | Timeline includes goals that are unrealistic, ineffective, or lack detail needed to convey a full-time plan for summer. | Timeline provided is very limited or incomplete or timeline is not provided. |
| 8. Likelihood of achieving proposed outcomes (based on STAR mentor reference form) | Project is extremely likely to achieve proposed outcomes based on high student preparation and strong faculty mentoring plan | Project is quite likely to achieve proposed outcomes, with student having good preparation and faculty have a reasonable mentoring plan | Project will probably achieve proposed outcomes, but with some concerns about student preparation and/or faculty mentoring plan | Project may achieve proposed outcomes, but significant concerns about student preparation and/or faculty mentoring plan | Project is unlikely to achieve proposed outcomes, with the student preparation and faculty mentoring plan both being unsatisfactory |