Colorado School of Mines, Physics
Proposal Defense

Student Name: ______________________________  Date: ________________

Student CWID#: __________________________  Degree Sought: ______________

By affixing signatures below, the advisor(s) and thesis committee members affirm that the student named above has successfully defended his/her thesis proposal in accordance with the following guidelines:

Shortly after forming a thesis committee and at least one semester before the thesis defense, the M.S. candidate will prepare a thesis proposal and present it to the committee that will approve the proposed program of research. While the advisor and committee provide overall guidance on the style and content of the thesis proposal, in general it should:
1. Include adequate background to allow the committee to understand the importance of the proposed research.
2. Discuss the project within the framework of prior research and place it in context within the relevant field of study.
3. Present and justify the techniques and approaches that will be used to achieve the proposed goals.
4. While not always necessary, preliminary results are often included to help justify the direction and approach. The proposal should not, however, be a mini-thesis. It needs to be a proposal.
5. Include an adequate bibliography to demonstrate the student has a complete grasp of the relevant literature.
6. Include a time table for completion of the thesis, and a list of courses that have been taken (or will be taken) to meet the degree course requirements.

The thesis proposal does not need to be a long document and an MS thesis proposal is anticipated to be shorter than a PhD proposal. Something less than 20 pages with less than 15 pages of actual written discussion is more than adequate. The format of the thesis proposal defense is set by the committee but typically is scheduled for 1.5 hours with a presentation followed by questions and discussion with the audience and committee.

__________________________________  __________________________________
Advisor/Date  Advisor/Date

__________________________________  __________________________________
Committee Member/Date  Committee Member /Date

__________________________________  __________________________________
Committee Member/Date  Committee Member /Date

__________________________________  __________________________________
Committee Member/Date  Committee Member /Date

Reviewed by Chair of the Physics Graduate Student Advising Committee:

__________________________________  Date: ________________

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