Graduate Application Rubric Template

The purpose of this rubric is to provide a standardized assessment of admissions materials across applications. Admissions committees reach final admissions decisions through discussion and consensus and in accordance with Wayne State University's recommendations.

Weighting Criteria*:
20% Written Communication Skills
20% Academic Preparation
20% Research/Scholarly/Technical Skills
20% Persistence and Motivation
20% Ability to Contribute a Unique Perspective to Research and/or Training
(Other criteria that program may include oral presentation skills, clinical or applied experiences, community engagement or involvement, ability to take the perspectives of other people, or other experiences that are deemed necessary for student and programmatic success)

Application Item and Evidence	1	2	3	4	SCORE
1. Written Communication Skills Evidence obtained from: Personal statement, writing sample, feedback from letters of recommendation	*Incomplete or run-on sentences, little and/or poor punctuation*	*Sentence structure and punctuation needs editing*	*Sentences varied, some awkward. Punctuation appropriate for the most part, no major errors*	*Excellent sentence structure, varied in composition and length. Punctuation appropriate, error-free reflecting thorough proofreading*	
2. Academic Preparation** Evidence obtained from: Transcripts, standardized test scores, personal statement, feedback from letters of recommendation	*GPA less than 3.0 (exception request must be made to the Graduate School) and/or Total Q + V less than XXX; AW less than xxx*	*GPA 3.0-3.5 and/or total Q + V between XXX and XXX; AW between xxx and xxx*	*GPA 3.51-3.74 and/or total Q + V between XXX and XXX; AW between xxx and xxx*	*GPA 3.75-4.0 and/or total Q + V of at least between XXX and XXX; AW between xxx and xxx*	
3. Research/Scholarly /Technical Skills Evidence obtained from: Transcripts, personal statement, feedback from letters of recommendation	*No research experience, including no relevant research coursework*	*Research experience limited to coursework; no additional research experience*	*Research experience outside the field of interest with transferrable skills to proposed area of study OR Some basic research experience beyond coursework (e.g., data entry, scheduling appointments)*	*Excellent research experience in the field of interest (e.g., meaningful and extensive contributions and/or research skills, evidenced by honor's thesis, publications, presentations, or other scholarly products)*	
4. Persistence and Motivation Evidence obtained from:	*No evidence of persistence in achieving long-term goals or*	*Some evidence of persistence and motivation but not explicitly*	*Evidence of persistence and motivation provided with no accompanying*	*Evidence of persistence and motivation including initiative in seeking out*	

Personal statement, feedback from letters of recommendation	*motivation for the field of study*	*stated*	*information about relevance for the field of study*	*opportunities and/or explanation of how the evidence is relevant to the field of study*	
5. Ability to Contribute a Unique Perspective Evidence obtained from: personal statement, feedback from letters of recommendation	*No evidence of ability to share unique perspectives to enhance learning or contribute to the program needs/goals.*	*Some evidence ability to share unique perspectives but not explicitly stated*	*Evidence of ability to share unique perspectives with no accompanying information about relevance for the field of study*	*Evidence of ability to share unique perspectives and an explanation of how the evidence is relevant to the field of study*	
TOTAL					**___= Total/# of items**

* Number of items and weighting of items to be identified by the program.

**Programs are encouraged to define rubric scores (Scores of 1-4) for academic preparation based on research, their program needs, and requirements as well as University requirements.