School of Industrial Design, MFA Midpoint Review: Thesis Outcomes Rubric

Program Learning	DOES NOT Meet Midpoint	MEETS Midpoint Review
Outcome	Review Expectations	Expectations
Present an original thesis concept worthy of the MFA degree	 Concept taken or borrowed from someone else Concept may start with an object or existing product Unclear how idea could be expanded Repeat topic or redesign 	 Concept developed solely by the student Concepts starts with an awareness or an observation of an opportunity Has a story, intent, voice, insight, point of view and personal vision May get into a new area in a known way, or a known area in a new way May have some ambiguity in potential solutions
Demonstrate the feasibility of their thesis project	 Product or potential product is not realistic Project is only theoretical Little or no consideration for manufacturing, engineering, distribution, production, marketing Student shows uncertainty in how to proceed 	 Presents an ID opportunity or contribution If not buildable now, realistic expectation that it can be built in the defined future Student knows what the next steps are and who they will work with to realize the project Demonstrated ability to execute project Show awareness of manufacturing, engineering, distribution, production, marketing Defines a market (or reason why defining a market is not relevant
Explain the relevance of their project to their professional goals	 Student can't articulate professional vision or personal goals Professional goals don't connect with the project Past projects don't relate to thesis project No connections between industry practice/knowledge and the project proposal 	 Thesis has potential to demonstrate mastery in specific areas of IF which is aligned with student's personal goals Student confidently articulates professional goals. May incorporate previous degree of expertise into proposal
Clearly define the problem/opportunity, hypothesis, main objectives, and product requirements and/or conditions in their project brief	 Presents narrow view of issue, problem defined is very obvious Opportunities are not a big enough "bite" Unclear about role of ID in their project proposal Cannot bridge research to opportunities Problem statement & hypothesis are not aligned Reader/listener left wondering what it all means 	 POV demonstrates vision for future Identifies tangible target market, creates new market or new experiences/services from research insights Addresses secondary need – something not obvious at first glance Hypothesis includes objective analysis of information Research validates problem statement and conclusion is clearly linked to research insights Has a strong argument validated with primary research

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Conduct adequate research and communicate findings using appropriate supporting materials	 Data is old, irrelevant or copied Uses only one source or doesn't seek out personal experiences & field research "Research" is really only a personal point of view or input from friends No analysis Conclusion does not derive from objective research Doesn't bring personal POV to research Student hasn't extracted meaning from raw information/data 	 Research creates new knowledge and tells us something we don't already know Demonstrates an understanding of what's been done in the past, what exists now, and what can be done in the future Includes evidence of observational research Uses multiple sources and includes citations (footnotes, bibliography) Creates infographics like 2x2's and Venn diagrams Includes all appropriate Institutional Review Board forms in journal. Includes relevant statistics/provocative quotes Creates generative tools for contexts & interviews
Produce work that demonstrates proficiency in branding, graphics, drawing, rendering, 3D modeling, and model making	 Presentation does not aesthetically coincide with journal. Graphics do not communicate data clearly. Drawing perspective is incorrect. 3d models are geometric and form development is lacking. Models lack craftsmanship. 	 Presentation, journal, additional materials are cohesive. Graphics are legible, colorful and engaging. Drawings show nicely executed final drawings and quick iterations. 3d model shows complex curves and indicates materials and processes Models are executed well enough to be evaluated for form and function.
Give clear and concise professional presentations (verbal and visual)	 Poor spelling and grammar Student lacks confidence and does not project voice. Presentation exceeds 20 minutes. Graphics are difficult to understand and branding does not visually align with journal. 	 Well dressed and prompt. Good narrative or story. Confident and articulate. Receptive to feedback and questions. Documents feedback.
Accurately present their ideas in writing	 Poor spelling and grammar Journal is not a detailed explanation of presentation. Journal does not include entire scope of project (prep, research, design and implementation) 	 Comprehensive Balance of visuals and text Journal includes the various iterative steps required for an innovative design solution.