

**San Diego State University College of Graduate Studies
Master's Research Scholarship (MRS) Rubric 2026-2027**

Criterion	Non-eligible 1	Weak 2	Adequate 3	Promising 4	Outstanding 5
Statement of nominee's accomplishments and potential in research, scholarship, and creative activities (RSCA) in their field.	No information provided regarding RSCA related to the current program of study.	Minimum academic achievement for graduate study at SDSU, and no substantial RSCA accomplishments to date.	Strong general academic achievement, but no substantial RSCA accomplishments to date. Vague professional development plan.***	Clear and specific detail of modest RSCA accomplishments, e.g., research assistant or similar work. Professional development plan for a career in the field.***	Multiple, specific, strong RSCA accomplishments for the field of study, e.g., credited publications or performances. Compelling professional development plan for a highly successful career.***
Commitment of other external and/or institutional financial support to the nominee during the award year.	No commitment of SDSU support in award year.	State of commitment of SDSU support unclear.	Minimal SDSU support in award year committed, or support uncertain.	Modest*** SDSU support in award year unambiguously committed.	Strong*** SDSU support in award year unambiguously committed.
Elementary evidence of academic merit: SDSU GPA, Baccalaureate GPA, and/or directly relevant prior experience.	GPA provided is <3.0.	Either of the following: weak GPA (3.0 - 3.2) and directly relevant prior experience, or adequate GPA (3.2 - 3.5) and no directly relevant prior experience.	Both of the following: adequate GPA (3.2 - 3.5) and directly relevant prior experience.	At least one of the following: high GPA (3.5 - 3.8) or exceptional and directly relevant prior experience.	Both of the following: very high GPA (>3.8) and exceptional and directly relevant prior experience.

***Relative to program, department/school, and college norms for professional development and graduate student financial support.