### Key to Ratings

**Initial Rating**
- **1+, outstanding student all around**
- **1, strong student all around**
- **1-, strong student but with some minor deficiencies, or good all around student**
- **2+, weaker student these are not usually sent to committee to review**
- **3, automatic reject**

**Committee Members’ Review**
- **I= Interview**
- **D= Discuss in committee**
- **R= Reject without interview**

**Interviewer Rating**
- **5= Truly Outstanding Applicant, equivalent to Superior DBBS Students**
- **4= Above Average Applicant, equivalent to top 11-50% of DBBS Students**
- **3= Average Applicant, equivalent to lower 50% of DBBS Students**
- **2= Below Average Applicant, can be successful in program but may experience complications**
- **1= Do Not Accept**

Below are more expansive definitions by current admissions committee members of the rankings for interviewed applicants. These are meant to help serve as a guide.

**5 = Truly outstanding applicant**
- The applicant has a strong research background, shows insights, and asks good questions.
- The applicant seems to possess the internal motivation and intellectual independence required of a successful graduate student.
- A student who will be a standout in your lab in all respects (creative scientist, independent worker, role model for others, lab leader).
- These students have already demonstrated strong potential for independent research, and will likely succeed in any program.
- The interview should be engaging and make you wish the student were already in your lab.

**4 = Above average applicant**
- The applicant may have minor deficiencies in background but seems capable of executing a successful graduate career.
- A student with solid research experience with clear signs of research potential. Some of these students will develop into our best students.

**3= Average applicant**
- Applicant has limited questions regarding the interviewer’s research and shows limited insight into what it takes to be a successful graduate student.
- The applicant may have previous lab experience, but the applicant has difficulty describing the work. Strong reservations about acceptance. A student with limited research experience and only glimmers of research potential. Demonstration of independent research ability or creative scientific thought may or may not be present in the interview setting.

**2 = Below Average**
- A student with limited research experience but no clear evidence for research potential. Does not follow basic discussion of research in interview setting.
- Applicant is unlikely to succeed in our program.

**1 = Do not Accept**
- Applicant is unlikely to succeed in our program.