

## Dissertation Defense Rubric (Revised 8/17/17)

Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Defense date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dissertation chair: \_\_\_\_\_

### A. Specify Topic Domain

1	2	3	4	5
Topic is unspecified, unfocused, or too broad		Insufficient topic breadth or depth		Appropriate breadth; only relevant work cited

### B. Demonstrate Control of Literature

1	2	3	4	5
Studies cited without connection		Studies cited with some linkage; synthesis of literature (e.g. meta-analysis)		Fluent, well integrated connections made; leads to next steps

### C. Establish Importance of Topic

1	2	3	4	5
Topic relayed without context in literature		Some indication of topic importance noted		Topic importance for research confirmed and extends current knowledge in the field

### D. Identify Research Hypotheses

1	2	3	4	5
No hypotheses; not stated in research context	Work cited without research context		Gaps in research findings noted	Formulation of research ideas; clear hypotheses stated

### E. Demonstrate Command of Foundational Concepts (i.e., theory, models) Related to Literature

1	2	3	4	5
Related foundation concepts ignored or glossed over		Important concepts mentioned; understanding not well demonstrated		Foundation concepts integrated with fluid clarity

**F. Research Design**

1	2	3	4	5
No design proposed		Design does not match problem		Multivariate Statistical design reflects sophistication of problem

**G. Applied Measurement to Research Approaches**

1	2	3	4	5
Instruments adopted without empirical and validity research		Reviews of instruments based on technical reliability		Instrumentation reflects advanced procedures review (e.g. confirmatory factor analysis, inter-rater reliability analyses, construct validity evidence, advanced mixed methods)

**H. Sample**

1	2	3	4	5
Samples not defined		Sample size ill-defined; sample does not address hypothesis		Samples are feasible and generalizable

**I. Statistical Analysis**

1	2	3	4	5
Only descriptive statistics reported	Univariate techniques		Multivariate analytical techniques (e.g. MANOVA, discriminant analyses) Mixed Methods clearly explicated with Multivariate Techniques	Advanced multivariate techniques (e.g. SEM, HLM) Mixed Methods with Advanced Multivariate Techniques

**J. Interpretation of Results**

1	2	3	4	5
Interpretations not based on data	No limitations stated		Clear data-based interpretations	Next steps outlined

**K. Oral Presentation**

1	2	3	4	5
Defensiveness		Demonstrated depth of expertise		Ability to respond meaningfully to questions and offer appropriate feedback

**L. Leadership Implications/Connections**

1	2	3	4	5
Unspecified/unfocused	Insufficient depth or breadth	Linkages noted but not well integrated		Clear connections made; implications and possibilities discussed and integrated

Pass\_\_\_\_\_ Fail\_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Signatures:

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**Dissertation Committee Chair**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Date**

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**Dissertation Committee Member**

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**Date**

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**Dissertation Committee Member**

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**Date**

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**Student**

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**Date**