

## Education Department Dissertation Defense Rubric

**Student Name:**

**Committee Members:**

**Directions to Student:** Please bring this form to your dissertation defense meeting. It is your committee's responsibility to fill out the form and return it.

**Directions to Committee Members:**

Please fill out all sections of this form at the end of the dissertation defense. The ratings given for the student should be based upon the consensus of the committee. For each Learning Outcome, please rate the Dissertation Draft at the time of the Defense and the Final Dissertation Assuming all Required Revisions are done. Please put an X in the appropriate boxes to rate the dissertation on the scale from 'Did not meet expectations' to 'Exceeded expectations' for each Learning Outcome. Although you cannot know for sure how well the revisions will be done, please evaluate the likely quality of the final product at the end of the defense. All information will be kept confidential and only reviewed by the PLO sub-committee of the department Curriculum Committee. Please return form to the Education Program Office, 3102 Education.

**PLO Area: Independent Research**

5. Frame an empirical research study guided by theory and prior research.
6. Design and implement a study using appropriate research questions, methods, and techniques.

**PLO 5: APPLICATION OF THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

| Learning Outcome                                  | Potential markers of quality  | Did not meet expectations  | Partially met expectations   | Met expectations   | Exceeded expectations   |
|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| <b>PLO 5 Application of theoretical framework</b> | -Explicit statement of which theories used.<br>-Models derived from theory.<br>-Theory used to help operationalize concepts, applied in analysis.<br>-More than 1 theory used.<br>-Use of a consistent framework throughout<br>-Understands the relationships between theories/synthesizes<br>-Incorporates a variety of perspectives | Does not define theoretical framework; utilizes inappropriate theoretical framework; inappropriately applies theoretical framework | Defines theoretical framework insufficiently; applies theoretical framework inadequately | Defines theoretical framework; applies theoretical framework appropriately | Clearly defines theoretical framework; explains application of theoretical framework thoroughly; utilizes theoretical framework in novel ways |
| <b>Dissertation Draft at time of defense</b>      |   |  |  |  |   |
| <b>Final dissertation assuming all</b>            |   |  |  |  |   |

|                             |  |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| required revisions are done |  |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|

**PLO 5: UTILIZATION OF PRIOR RESEARCH**

| Learning Outcome   | Potential Markers of Quality  | Did not meet expectations   | Partially met expectations  | Met expectations  | Exceeded Expectations  |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|
| <b>PLO 5 Utilization of prior research</b>                         | -Cited research relevant to each research question.<br>-Included research similar to type of research done in project.<br>-Does not include irrelevant research.<br>-Current research as well as seminal studies.<br>-Synthesis | Does not utilize prior research; utilizes irrelevant prior research; demonstrates lack of understanding of prior research | Utilizes some relevant prior research; demonstrates limited understanding of prior research | Utilizes relevant prior research; demonstrates an understanding of prior research | Utilizes wide range of relevant prior research; demonstrates very thorough understanding of prior research |
| <b>Dissertation Draft at time of defense</b>                       |   |   |   |   |  |
| <b>Final Dissertation assuming all required revisions are done</b> |   |   |   |   |  |

**PLO 6 USE OF APPROPRIATE RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

| Learning outcome                                   | Potential Markers of Quality   | Did not meet expectations                           | Partially met expectations                       | Met Expectation                                | Exceeded Expectations                                |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| <b>PLO 6 Use of appropriate research questions</b> | -Answerable research questions (i.e. not too broad or too many).<br>-Research questions are clearly addressed in Results and Discussion sections<br>-Research questions are clearly worded<br>-Research questions have sub-questions that help to address the larger research question.<br>-Research questions address gaps in the literature or are innovative through use of theory/methods<br>-Consequential research questions | Does not clearly define scope of research questions | Defines scope of research questions incompletely | Defines scope of research questions completely | Very effectively defines scope of research questions |
| <b>Dissertation Draft at time of defense</b>       |  |   |  |  |  |

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|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>Final Dissertation assuming all required revisions are done</b> |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|

**PLO 6 UTILIZATION OF RESEARCH METHODS**

| <b>Learning Outcome</b>  | <b>Potential Markers of Quality</b>   | <b>Did not meet expectations</b>  | <b>Partially met expectations</b>   | <b>Met expectations</b>   | <b>Exceeded expectations</b>   |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|
| <b>PLO 6 Utilization of research methods</b>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Clear rationale given for the research methods used.</li> <li>-Methods are appropriate to the research questions.</li> <li>-Multiple methods, as appropriate.</li> <li>-Clearly describes steps/components of analysis.</li> <li>-Appropriate amount of data used to answer research questions.</li> <li>-Rigorous designs</li> <li>-Complexity, depth of analysis</li> </ul> | Demonstrates little understanding of research methods; methods chosen not well suited to research questions | Shows basic level of competence in utilization of methods; methods loosely fit research questions | Applies methods in appropriate ways; methods fit research questions | Demonstrates very thorough understanding of methods; approach is well designed and shows depth and breadth of research methods |
| <b>Dissertation draft at time of defense</b>                       |   |   |   |   |  |
| <b>Final Dissertation assuming all required revisions are done</b> |   |   |   |   |  |

**COMMENTS (optional)**