

Final Oral Examination: The Dissertation

	OUTSTANDING	VERY GOOD	ACCEPTABLE	UNSATISFACTORY
Mastery of Field	<input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates mastery of the relevant literature and critical insight	<input type="checkbox"/> Shows some mastery of relevant literature <input type="checkbox"/> Offers some critical synthesis of relevant literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Adequate literature review but review is uncritical <input type="checkbox"/> Displays limited understanding of the field	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarizes or misreads or misuses sources <input type="checkbox"/> Missing relevant sources
Mastery of Research Methods	<input type="checkbox"/> Develops new techniques, tools, methods or analyses <input type="checkbox"/> Methodologically sophisticated	<input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates technical competence with regards to design and methods <input type="checkbox"/> Generally well-executed research including data collection and analyses	<input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates some technical competence <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates ability to do research <input type="checkbox"/> Uses standard methods and analyses	<input type="checkbox"/> Inappropriate or incorrect design or methods <input type="checkbox"/> Wrong, inappropriate, incoherent, confused, uninformative analyses <input type="checkbox"/> Data are flawed, falsified, misinterpreted, irrelevant, or confusing
Presentation/ Communication Skills	<input type="checkbox"/> Well written and organized <input type="checkbox"/> Compelling and coherent argument	<input type="checkbox"/> Generally well written and organized	<input type="checkbox"/> Writing is pedestrian and plodding <input type="checkbox"/> Writing lacks originality or creativity	<input type="checkbox"/> Poorly written <input type="checkbox"/> Spelling and grammatical errors <input type="checkbox"/> Poorly organized
Analysis and Interpretation	<input type="checkbox"/> Compelling and coherent argument <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates mature, independent thinking <input type="checkbox"/> Imaginative or insightful argument	<input type="checkbox"/> Generally coherent, logical argument	<input type="checkbox"/> Sustained argument but argument lacks synthesis and innovation <input type="checkbox"/> Argument lacks imagination or insight <input type="checkbox"/> Argument is narrow in scope	<input type="checkbox"/> Weak, inconsistent, or invalid theoretical argument <input type="checkbox"/> Conclusions are unsupported, exaggerated, or invalid
Significance and Impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Original and significant <input type="checkbox"/> Interdisciplinary <input type="checkbox"/> Will make an important contribution to the field <input type="checkbox"/> Of interest to the broader scientific community <input type="checkbox"/> Pushes new boundaries, opens up new lines of inquiry <input type="checkbox"/> Publishable in a top-tier journal	<input type="checkbox"/> Some original ideas, insights, and observations <input type="checkbox"/> Programmatic extension of prior research <input type="checkbox"/> Makes important contribution to the field <input type="checkbox"/> May be publishable in refereed journal	<input type="checkbox"/> Question or problem is highly derivative of prior work <input type="checkbox"/> Results are predictable <input type="checkbox"/> Will make a small contribution to the field <input type="checkbox"/> Publishable, but in a lesser journal	<input type="checkbox"/> Trivial, weak, unoriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Results are obvious, unexplained, or misinterpreted <input type="checkbox"/> Will not make a contribution to the field <input type="checkbox"/> Not publishable

Final Oral Examination: The Oral Defense

	OUTSTANDING	VERY GOOD	ACCEPTABLE	UNSATISFACTORY
Mastery of Field	<input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates thorough mastery of the relevant literature <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates ability to critique and synthesize the relevant literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates familiarity with the relevant literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Limited mastery of the relevant literature <input type="checkbox"/> Narrow understanding of the field <input type="checkbox"/> Knows the literature, but unable to critique or synthesize it	<input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates weak or incomplete mastery of the relevant literature <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates failure to understand key theoretical arguments <input type="checkbox"/> Reveals lack of adequate preparation
Mastery of Research Methods	<input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates thorough understanding of relevant research designs, data analytic methods, and quantitative methods	<input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates understanding of relevant research designs, data analytic methods, and quantitative methods	<input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates technical competence <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates ability to conduct research <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates basic competencies for research design, data analytic methods, and quantitative methods	<input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates limited understanding of key methodological issues <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates limited understanding of key quantitative analyses
Presentation/ Communication Skills	<input type="checkbox"/> Clear, concise and logical <input type="checkbox"/> Confident, mature and articulate <input type="checkbox"/> Can rebut criticisms	<input type="checkbox"/> Communicates effectively <input type="checkbox"/> Can respond to criticisms, but counter-arguments are incomplete or unconvincing	<input type="checkbox"/> Weak or incomplete response to criticisms <input type="checkbox"/> Defense is nervous or hesitant	<input type="checkbox"/> Defense is confused or unresponsive <input type="checkbox"/> Cannot respond to criticisms <input type="checkbox"/> The presentation is sloppy, disorganized or incomplete
Analysis and Interpretation	<input type="checkbox"/> Insightful and original <input type="checkbox"/> Develops a thorough, logical argument	<input type="checkbox"/> Develops a logical argument	<input type="checkbox"/> Misses connections and implications	<input type="checkbox"/> Arguments are illogical <input type="checkbox"/> Reveals lack of critical insight <input type="checkbox"/> Arguments are not supported with relevant citations and data
Significance and Impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Proposes novel research questions <input type="checkbox"/> Proposes programmatic line of research <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate will make significant contributions to the field	<input type="checkbox"/> Proposes important research questions <input type="checkbox"/> Proposes productive line of research <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate will make important contributions to the field	<input type="checkbox"/> Solid effort <input type="checkbox"/> Competent <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate will make modest contributions to the field	<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate will not contribute to field