



DISSERTATION RUBRIC

Student Name: _____

Dissertation Proposal Defense

Date: _____

Dissertation Defense

Chair: _____

Committee member filling the rubric: _____

Score	Student Learning Outcomes	1.- Emerging Scholarship	2.- Developing Scholarship	3.- Developed Scholarship	4.- Exemplary Scholarship
	#1 Students will demonstrate proficiency in scholarly writing.	More work developing academic writing skills necessary; syntax or vocabulary may not be well developed; writing may be difficult to read or understand; tone may not exhibit an understanding of the academic writing genre; errors of spelling, punctuation or formatting may be present; document may have formatting problems, the candidate may not have a command of the field's vocabulary.	Writing is somewhat developed and professional; spelling, punctuation, grammar, in general, meet program and institutional standards; formatting is adequate; the vocabulary of the respective field is understood and used properly.	Writing is grammatically correct, fluid, precise, and clear; vocabulary of the field is clearly explained and defined; the tone is professional; appropriate scholarly style and format are accurately used.	Writing is fluid, precise, and clear; terms of the field is clearly explained and defined; appropriate scholarly style and format are accurately used; the candidate's 'voice' is heard and yields a definitive presence, authority, and understanding of the issues being discussed.
	#2 Students will demonstrate command of the literature [including debates, issues, and theories] in their emphasis area.	The literature review does not include some of the important references related to the subject of the study; relevance to the research question unclear; may only provide a list of previous findings without being in dialogue with the literature; little evidence the candidate understands the relevant literature within their field; may not address the gap in the literature being investigated.	Provides an analysis of previous findings; adequate coverage but limited as to viewpoints presented; reference to and discussion of relevant literature but connections with their question or thesis is not always clear; may not develop a strong connection to the gap in the literature their work addresses.	An insightful review that draws connections and integrates literature in a new way; includes relevant literature; demonstrates that the student can use the literature to discuss scholarly trends and to develop hypotheses; draws a clear relationship to the gap in literature their work will address.	Creative and critical engagement with relevant literature in the field. Demonstrates the gap in the literature relevant to their study and makes a compelling argument as to the potential of the candidate's research to address the gap and significantly contribute to the body of research in their field.



Score	Student Learning Outcomes	1.- Emerging Scholarship	2.- Developing Scholarship	3.- Developed Scholarship	4.- Exemplary Scholarship
	#3 Students will demonstrate knowledge and skills to design and conduct a research study that contributes new knowledge to their fields of study.	Proposes a methodology and/or population that has significant limitations or does not lend itself well to the study of the question has not identified, the biases and/or limitations within the study design; ethical issues of research are not considered; a clear connection between the methodology and the data analysis either not discussed or not clearly made.	Shows basic competence in understanding methodology and study design; some consideration of ethical issues; choice of methodology and study design acceptable; study biases and/or limitations within the study design discussed but may not be well developed; connection between the methodology and the proposed data analysis discussed but may not be clearly developed.	Creative methodology and study design; potential study biases and/or limitations within the study clearly understood and discussed; ethical issues are considered appropriately; discussion of connection between methodology and proposed data analysis clear and concise.	High quality, creative, study design that demonstrates manifests a deep understanding of the field; clear explanation of methodological choices, ethical considerations, iteratively explores questions raised by the data or theoretical analysis; communicates very clearly; discusses the potential limitations of the methodology, study design, and potential biases inherent in study; discussion of connection between methodology and data analysis clearly and concisely.
	#4 Students will demonstrate the ability to communicate scholarship to multiple audiences using oral and visual strategies.	Does not adequately defend proposal; does not answer key questions; frequently shows a need for deeper reflection on vital points; Overly dependent on presentation aids and tends to read the material from presentation feels awkward interacting with the audience or does not seem to feel comfortable facilitating discussion.	Adequately defends proposal; answers questions but sometimes lacks depth; frequently shows a need for deeper reflection on minor points; sometimes has difficulty speaking freely to the audience and does not always seem comfortable facilitating discussion.	Competently defends proposal by providing very helpful answers to questions; may occasionally manifest need for further reflection on minor points; is easily understandable and interactions with the audience are comfortable. Comfortable facilitating discussion.	Masterfully defends proposal by providing clear and insightful answers to questions; gives detailed clear explanations, interaction with audience is lively. Comfortable facilitating discussion.

Total Score: _____

Pass

Pass with revisions
(conditional pass)

Did not pass

Committee member signature: _____

Comments: