

Department of Earth Sciences

Assessment Rubric for Thesis/Dissertation Defense Results

Student's Name:

University Banner ID: U

Major:

Degree: MS _____ PhD _____

Area of Concentration, if applicable:

Date:

Final Thesis/Dissertation Title:

Criteria		Advanced (3)	Intermediate (2)	Beginner (1)
1	Research Question/Problem	Communicates a high level of sophistication in presenting and situating research question.	Clearly presents research question.	Research question unsophisticated or not clearly presented.
2	Literature Review	Demonstrates depth of knowledge and thorough preparation in review of literature.	A adequate literature review.	Literature review is incomplete, inaccurate and superficial.
3	Methods	Describes and competently implements appropriate methods.	A adequately describes and uses appropriate methods.	Methods not adequately described and/or inappropriate to research question.
4	Results and Discussion	Presents results thoroughly, with full discussion of their implications for the research question.	Presents results with adequate discussion of their implications.	Incomplete presentation of results and/or inadequate discussion of their implications
5	Format and Organization	Document and presentation are well organized and logical. Guides the reader through the progression of ideas.	Document and presentation are adequately organized and logical.	Document and/or presentation are poorly organized.
6	Citations and References	Uses appropriate references with proper citations.	Uses some references with citations.	Inadequate references or citation used.
7	Verbal Communication	Oral defense presented clearly; questions answered directly and succinctly.	Oral defense presented clearly; questions answered adequately.	Oral defense disorganized; questions not answered adequately.

Committee Approvals: (Please print)	Signatures	Criteria							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Over-all
Chair (Examining Committee)	Chair, Examining Committee								
Committee Member	Committee Member								
Committee Member	Committee Member								
Committee Member	Committee Member								
Committee Member	Committee Member								
Committee Member	Committee Member								
Criteria Averages									

Please complete this assessment form for each graduate student for whom you provide advisement, either as chair or a member of their graduate committee. Return this completed Assessment Rubric and the Thesis/Dissertation Final Defense Results form to the Administrative Associate. Please note this Assessment Rubric form will be used to assess the graduate student's 1) research abilities and writing skills and 2) oral presentation/communication/organizational skills (shaded areas). The Administrative Associate will collect this data for MS and PhD candidates and will forward the results to the Chair of the Departmental Learning Outcomes Committee. The Thesis/Dissertation Final Defense Results form will not be sent to the Graduate School until all the graduate student's committee members complete this rubric.