### **Rubric for Evaluating MS Thesis and Defense**

(This page should be filled out by the student or Committee Chairman/advisor prior to distribution to Committee)

Chair of Evaluation Committee			
Advisor:	Date of Thesis Defense		
Thesis Title			
Committee Members and Department			

At the conclusion of the Thesis Defense, each committee member should fill out the response sheet. For each attribute which a committee member feels is somewhat or very deficient, a short explanation should be provided. Comment sections at the bottom of the rubric are provided for explanations of the reasoning behind the overall evaluation of the examinee's performance if desired. Completed forms are to be turned in to the Chair of the Evaluation Committee (or Advisor), not the student.

A summary of written comments from the committee members WILL be provided to the student by the chair of the examining committee (or Advisor) and a verbal summarization of the overall evaluation of the student's performance by the committee WILL be provided to the student by that individual.

All examination documents (rubrics and written comments) must be completed regardless of the outcome of the Thesis Defense.

A copy of the completed forms (both rubrics and written comments) must be sent to the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs within 48 hours of the conclusion of the Thesis Defense.

Thesis Defense Rubric – Completed by:	Date:
Thesis Defense Rubrie – Completed by:	Date

Attribute	Does Not Meet Expectations	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations
Overall quality presentation	□ Poorly organized	□ Clearly organized	U Well organized
	□ Poor presentation	□ Clear presentation	□ Professional presentation
	$\Box$ Poor communication skills	□ Good communication skills	□ Excellent communication skills
	□ Slides and handouts difficult to read	□ Slides and handouts clear	□ Slides and handouts outstanding
Overall breadth of knowledge	□ Presentation unacceptable	□ Presentation acceptable	□ Presentation superior
	Presentation reveals critical weaknesses in depth of knowledge	Presentation reveals some depth of knowledge in subject matter	Presentation reveals exceptional depth of subject knowledge
	in subject matter <ul> <li>Presentation does not reflect well</li> </ul>	Presentation reveals above average critical thinking skills	Presentation reveals well developed critical thinking skills
	developed critical thinking skills	Presentation reveals the ability to draw from knowledge in several disciplines	Presentation reveals the ability to interconnect and extend knowledge from multiple disciplines
Quality of response to questions	□ Responses are incomplete	□ Responses are complete	□ Responses are eloquent
	□ Arguments are poorly presented	□ Arguments are well organized	□ Arguments are skillfully presented
	Respondent exhibits lack of knowledge in subject area	Respondent exhibits adequate knowledge in subject area	Respondent exhibits superior knowledge in subject area
	□ Responses do not meet level expected of a M.S. graduate	Responses meet level expected of a MS graduate	Responses exceed level expected of a MS graduate
Overall Assessment	Does not meet expectations	□ Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations
Comments:			

Thesis Defense Rubric – Completed by:	Date:
Thesis Defense Rubrie – Completed by:	Date

Attribute	Does Not Meet Expectations	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations
Overall quality presentation	□ Poorly organized	□ Clearly organized	□ Well organized
	□ Poor presentation	□ Clear presentation	□ Professional presentation
	□ Poor communication skills	□ Good communication skills	□ Excellent communication skills
	$\Box$ Slides and handouts difficult to read	□ Slides and handouts clear	□ Slides and handouts outstanding
Overall breadth of knowledge	□ Presentation unacceptable	□ Presentation acceptable	□ Presentation superior
	Presentation reveals critical weaknesses in depth of knowledge	Presentation reveals some depth of knowledge in subject matter	Presentation reveals exceptional depth of subject knowledge
	in subject matter <ul> <li>Presentation does not reflect well</li> </ul>	Presentation reveals above average critical thinking skills	Presentation reveals well developed critical thinking skills
	developed critical thinking skills	Presentation reveals the ability to draw from knowledge in several disciplines	Presentation reveals the ability to interconnect and extend knowledge from multiple disciplines
Quality of response to questions	□ Responses are incomplete	□ Responses are complete	□ Responses are eloquent
	□ Arguments are poorly presented	□ Arguments are well organized	□ Arguments are skillfully presented
	Respondent exhibits lack of knowledge in subject area	Respondent exhibits adequate knowledge in subject area	Respondent exhibits superior knowledge in subject area
	□ Responses do not meet level expected of a M.S. graduate	Responses meet level expected of a MS graduate	Responses exceed level expected of a MS graduate
Overall Assessment	Does not meet expectations	□ Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations
Comments:			

Thesis Defense Rubric – Completed by:	Date:
Thesis Defense Rubrie – Completed by:	Date

Attribute	Does Not Meet Expectations	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations
Overall quality presentation	□ Poorly organized	□ Clearly organized	U Well organized
	□ Poor presentation	□ Clear presentation	□ Professional presentation
	$\Box$ Poor communication skills	□ Good communication skills	□ Excellent communication skills
	□ Slides and handouts difficult to read	□ Slides and handouts clear	□ Slides and handouts outstanding
Overall breadth of knowledge	□ Presentation unacceptable	□ Presentation acceptable	□ Presentation superior
	Presentation reveals critical weaknesses in depth of knowledge	Presentation reveals some depth of knowledge in subject matter	Presentation reveals exceptional depth of subject knowledge
	in subject matter <ul> <li>Presentation does not reflect well</li> </ul>	Presentation reveals above average critical thinking skills	Presentation reveals well developed critical thinking skills
	developed critical thinking skills	Presentation reveals the ability to draw from knowledge in several disciplines	Presentation reveals the ability to interconnect and extend knowledge from multiple disciplines
Quality of response to questions	□ Responses are incomplete	□ Responses are complete	□ Responses are eloquent
	□ Arguments are poorly presented	□ Arguments are well organized	□ Arguments are skillfully presented
	Respondent exhibits lack of knowledge in subject area	Respondent exhibits adequate knowledge in subject area	Respondent exhibits superior knowledge in subject area
	□ Responses do not meet level expected of a MS graduate	Responses meet level expected of a MS graduate	Responses exceed level expected of a MS graduate
Overall Assessment	Does not meet expectations	□ Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations
Comments:			

 Thesis Rubric – Completed by:
 \_\_\_\_\_\_

Attribute	Does Not Meet Expectations	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations
Overall quality of science	□ Arguments are incoherent or flawed	□ Arguments are coherent and clear	Arguments are superior
	□ Objectives are poorly defined	□ Objectives are clear	□ Objectives are well defined
	Demonstrates rudimentary critical thinking skills	Demonstrates average critical thinking skills	Exhibits mature, critical thinking skills
	Does not reflect understanding of subject matter and associated literature	□ Reflects understanding of subject matter and associated literature	Exhibits mastery of subject matter and associated literature.
	Demonstrates poor understanding of theoretical concepts	Demonstrates understanding of theoretical concepts	Demonstrates mastery of theoretical concepts
	Displays limited creativity and insight	Displays creativity and insight	Displays exceptional creativity and insight
Contribution to discipline	□ Limited evidence of discovery	□ Some evidence of discovery	□ Exceptional evidence of discovery
	□ Limited expansion upon previous research	□ Builds upon previous research	□ Greatly extends previous research
	Limited theoretical or applied significance	Reasonable theoretical or applied significance	Exceptional theoretical or applied significance
	□ Limited publication potential	□ Reasonable publication potential	Exceptional publication potential
Responsible Conduct of	Demonstrates unacceptable originality	Demonstrates acceptable originality	Demonstrates exceptional originality
Research	□ Lacks regulatory compliance	Considers regulatory compliance	Demonstrates regulatory compliance
	□ Documentation is inadequate	□ Documentation is adequate	Documentation is excellent
Quality of writing	□ Writing is weak	□ Writing is adequate	□ Writing is publication quality
	Numerous grammatical and spelling errors apparent	□ Some grammatical and spelling errors apparent	No grammatical or spelling errors apparent
	□ Organization is poor	□ Organization is logical	□ Organization is excellent
Overall Assessment	Does not meet expectations	□ Meets Expectations	□ Exceeds Expectations

 Thesis Rubric – Completed by:
 \_\_\_\_\_\_

Attribute	Does Not Meet Expectations	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations
Overall quality of science	Arguments are incoherent or flawed	□ Arguments are coherent and clear	Arguments are superior
	□ Objectives are poorly defined	□ Objectives are clear	□ Objectives are well defined
	Demonstrates rudimentary critical thinking skills	Demonstrates average critical thinking skills	Exhibits mature, critical thinking skills
	Does not reflect understanding of subject matter and associated literature	□ Reflects understanding of subject matter and associated literature	Exhibits mastery of subject matter and associated literature.
	Demonstrates poor understanding of theoretical concepts	Demonstrates understanding of theoretical concepts	Demonstrates mastery of theoretical concepts
	Displays limited creativity and insight	Displays creativity and insight	Displays exceptional creativity and insight
Contribution to discipline	□ Limited evidence of discovery	□ Some evidence of discovery	□ Exceptional evidence of discovery
	□ Limited expansion upon previous research	□ Builds upon previous research	□ Greatly extends previous research
	Limited theoretical or applied significance	Reasonable theoretical or applied significance	Exceptional theoretical or applied significance
	□ Limited publication potential	□ Reasonable publication potential	Exceptional publication potential
Responsible Conduct of	Demonstrates unacceptable originality	Demonstrates acceptable originality	Demonstrates exceptional originality
Research	□ Lacks regulatory compliance	Considers regulatory compliance	Demonstrates regulatory compliance
	□ Documentation is inadequate	□ Documentation is adequate	□ Documentation is excellent
Quality of writing	□ Writing is weak	□ Writing is adequate	□ Writing is publication quality
	Numerous grammatical and spelling errors apparent	□ Some grammatical and spelling errors apparent	No grammatical or spelling errors apparent
	□ Organization is poor	□ Organization is logical	□ Organization is excellent
Overall Assessment	□ Does not meet expectations	□ Meets Expectations	□ Exceeds Expectations

Thesis Rubric – Completed by:_	Date:

(To be completed by each committee member. Please check boxes for all evaluation criteria that you feel are appropriate within each attribute	categor	y)
---	---------	----

Attribute	Does Not Meet Expectations	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations
Overall quality of science	□ Arguments are incoherent or flawed	□ Arguments are coherent and clear	Arguments are superior
	□ Objectives are poorly defined	□ Objectives are clear	□ Objectives are well defined
	Demonstrates rudimentary critical thinking skills	Demonstrates average critical thinking skills	Exhibits mature, critical thinking skills
	Does not reflect understanding of subject matter and associated literature	□ Reflects understanding of subject matter and associated literature	Exhibits mastery of subject matter and associated literature.
	Demonstrates poor understanding of theoretical concepts	Demonstrates understanding of theoretical concepts	Demonstrates mastery of theoretical concepts
	$\Box$ Displays limited creativity and insight	Displays creativity and insight	Displays exceptional creativity and insight
Contribution to discipline	□ Limited evidence of discovery	□ Some evidence of discovery	□ Exceptional evidence of discovery
	□ Limited expansion upon previous research	□ Builds upon previous research	Greatly extends previous research
	☐ Limited theoretical or applied significance	Reasonable theoretical or applied significance	Exceptional theoretical or applied significance
	☐ Limited publication potential	□ Reasonable publication potential	Exceptional publication potential
Responsible Conduct of	Demonstrates unacceptable originality	Demonstrates acceptable originality	Demonstrates exceptional originality
Research	□ Lacks regulatory compliance	□ Considers regulatory compliance	Demonstrates regulatory compliance
	Documentation is inadequate	Documentation is adequate	Documentation is excellent
Quality of writing	□ Writing is weak	□ Writing is adequate	□ Writing is publication quality
	Numerous grammatical and spelling errors apparent	□ Some grammatical and spelling errors apparent	No grammatical or spelling errors apparent
	□ Organization is poor	□ Organization is logical	□ Organization is excellent
Overall Assessment	Does not meet expectations	□ Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations

**<u>Summary</u>** of written comments from <u>ALL</u> committee members for student concerning performance on Thesis and Defense:

Chair of Examining Committee Signature\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_