

Biological Sciences Department

Rubric for Assessing MS Thesis Defense

Name of MS Candidate: _____

Name of Evaluator: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Criterion	1-----2-----3-----4-----5			Score
	Poor		Excellent	
Literature review of chosen field Knowledge	Shallow, mistaken, containing large gaps, incorrectly cited	Appropriate coverage, accurately represented, up to date.	Extensive, shows deep understanding of material and theory.	
Scientific merit of work Critical thinking Knowledge	Unoriginal, limited potential for publication Narrow, trivial, or flawed.	Useful contribution, shows some creativity and insight	Sophisticated, highly creative, publishable.	
Scope and quality of data collected Critical thinking	Incomplete, or biased data not supporting analysis	Data support tests of hypotheses	Novel, high quality data set.	
Quality of interpretation Critical thinking Knowledge	Inappropriate analyses, incorrect interpretation.	Reliable analyses, logical conclusions	Creative and insightful analyses and interpretation.	
Quality and depth of writing Communication Knowledge	Numerous grammatical and spelling errors, poor organization	Adequate attention to grammar, spelling and organization	Publication quality, logically organized.	
Oral presentation Communication Knowledge	Hard to follow, confusing, little learned by audience.	Some organization, lack of coherence, some points clear.	Engaging, points clearly made and understood.	

Other recommendations or comments: