

Evaluation/Scoring Rubric for M.A. Thesis/Ph.D. Dissertation Defense
SMU Ph.D. Program in Clinical Psychology

Student: _____

Date: _____

Thesis Defense Dissertation Defense

Title of Presentation: _____

The student's defense should be graded on the domains below based on both the written and the oral presentation. Students are expected to demonstrate mastery in all domains, but deficits may be addressed in revisions.

Quality of Presentation

- Yes No 1. The written product is clear, well-organized, and adheres to APA style
 Yes No 2. The oral presentation is clear, well-organized, and consistent with the written document

Coverage of Literature

- Yes No 3. Provides a comprehensive review of the relevant empirical and theoretical literature
 Yes No 4. Demonstrates a strong understanding of the literature above and beyond what is included in the written document
 Yes No 5. Provides a compelling argument for the hypotheses to be tested

Hypotheses

- Yes No 6. Hypotheses are well-grounded in the literature and testable
 Yes No 7. Evaluation of the hypotheses has the potential to add to the existing science on the topic

Methods

- Yes No 8. Methods are rigorous, well-justified, and appropriate for testing the hypotheses
 Yes No 9. Description of methods is clear and includes appropriate psychometric information

Data Analytic Approach

- Yes No 10. Analytic approach is well-justified and appropriate for the hypotheses and methods

Presentation of Results

- Yes No 11. Results are presented clearly and accurately
 Yes No 12. Analyses are interpreted correctly

Discussion of Findings

- Yes No 13. Findings are summarized accurately and clearly
- Yes No 14. Results are interpreted in the context of the existing literature
- Yes No 15. Implications of the results for future research and/or application is accurate and clear
- Yes No 16. Accurately identifies limitations to the study and how/why such factors may limit interpretation of the results
- Yes No 17. Incorporates discussion of limitations into suggestions for future research

Ethical Issues

- Yes No 18. Discussion of ethical issues related to topic, methodology, interpretation, and implications is comprehensive, accurate, and thoughtful

Individual & Cultural Diversity

- Yes No 19. Provides a comprehensive discussion of individual and cultural diversity issues related to the topic of study and to the generalizability and interpretation of the results

Response to Questions

- Yes No 20. Responses reflect a strong understanding of the relevant literature and methodology
- Yes No 21. Demonstrates an ability to consider and incorporate alternative views in interpreting research and drawing conclusions

Comments and Recommendations for Improving Mastery For any item above marked “No”, provide information below on what is required to achieve mastery and suggestions for doing so:

1. Quality of Presentation

2. Coverage of Literature

3. Hypotheses

4. Methods

5. Data Analytic Approach

6. Presentation of Results

7. Discussion of Findings

8. Ethical Issues

9. Individual & Cultural Diversity

10. Response to Questions

Final Decision

Student name

Passed Failed the defense.

If the student failed the defense, the following remedial actions must be taken prior to re-evaluation:

Committee Signatures:

Name:

Name:

Name:

Name: