School of Nursing
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

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Rubric for Evaluating PhD Dissertation Proposal and Dissertation Defense

Page 1 should be completed by the student or committee chairman prior to distribution to committee

Student Name: _____ **Advisor / Chair of Evaluation Committee**:_____

Date _____

Circle One: Dissertation Proposal Defense Final Dissertation Defense

Dissertation Title: _____

_____

Committee Members (include department):

_____

_____

_____

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At the conclusion of the presentation/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. Completed forms are to be treated as **confidential** and are to be **collected and reviewed by the Examination Committee Chair, and copies turned in to the Graduate Program Student Services Coordinator within 7 days of the defense**.

The Committee Chair will provide the students with a written summary of the committee members' comments and verbal summary of their overall evaluation of the student's performance **within 7 days of the defense**.

All examination documents (rubrics and written comments) must be completed regardless of the outcome of the presentation or defense.

To be completed by each committee member. Please check boxes for all evaluation criteria within each attribute category.

Attribute	Does Not Meet Expectations	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations
Overall quality presentation	☐ Poorly organized ☐ Poor presentation ☐ Poor communication ☐ Proposal / Dissertation thesis or manuscripts difficult to read	☐ Clearly organized ☐ Clear presentation ☐ Good communication skills ☐ Proposal / Dissertation thesis or manuscripts clear	☐ Well organized ☐ Professional presentation ☐ Excellent communication skills ☐ Proposal / Dissertation thesis or manuscripts outstanding
Overall breadth of knowledge	☐ Unacceptable ☐ Critical weaknesses in depth of existing knowledge in subject matter ☐ Does not reflect knowledge in other disciplines	☐ Acceptable ☐ Some depth of knowledge in subject matter ☐ Ability to draw from knowledge in several disciplines	☐ Superior ☐ Exceptional depth of subject knowledge ☐ Ability to interconnect and extend knowledge from multiple disciplines
Quality of response to questions	☐ Responses are incomplete ☐ Arguments are poorly presented ☐ Relies on faculty advisor for substantive help in answering questions ☐ Responses do not meet level expected of a PhD student/graduate	☐ Responses are complete ☐ Arguments are well organized ☐ Relies on faculty advisor for minimal help in answering questions ☐ Responses meet level expected of a PhD student/graduate	☐ Responses are eloquent ☐ Arguments are skillfully presented ☐ Does not rely on faculty advisor for help in answering questions ☐ Responses exceed level expected of a PhD student/graduate
Overall quality of theory / science	☐ Arguments are incoherent or flawed ☐ Objectives are poorly defined ☐ Demonstrates rudimentary critical thinking skills ☐ Does not reflect understanding of subject matter and associated literature ☐ Demonstrates poor understanding of theoretical concepts ☐ Demonstrates limited originality ☐ Displays limited creativity and insight	☐ Arguments are coherent and reasonable ☐ Objectives are clear ☐ Demonstrates average critical thinking skills ☐ Reflects understanding of subject matter and associated literature ☐ Demonstrates understanding of theoretical concepts ☐ Demonstrates originality ☐ Displays creativity and insight	☐ Arguments are clear and convincing ☐ Objectives are well defined ☐ Exhibits mature, critical thinking skills ☐ Exhibits mastery of subject matter and associated literature. ☐ Demonstrates mastery of theoretical concepts ☐ Demonstrates exceptional originality ☐ Displays exceptional creativity and insight

Attribute	Does Not Meet Expectations	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations
Contribution to nursing and other disciplines	☐ Limited evidence of discovery ☐ Limited expansion upon previous research findings ☐ Limited theoretical or applied significance ☐ Limited publication potential	☐ Some evidence of discovery ☐ Builds upon previous research findings ☐ Reasonable theoretical or applied significance ☐ Reasonable publication potential	☐ Exceptional evidence of discovery ☐ Greatly extends previous research findings ☐ Exceptional theoretical or applied significance ☐ Exceptional publication potential
Quality of writing	☐ Writing is weak ☐ Numerous grammatical and spelling errors apparent ☐ Organization is poor ☐ Documentation is poor	☐ Writing is adequate ☐ Some grammatical and spelling errors apparent ☐ Organization is logical ☐ Documentation is adequate	☐ Writing is publication quality ☐ No grammatical or spelling errors apparent ☐ Organization is excellent ☐ Documentation is excellent
Overall Assessment	☐ Does not meet expectations	☐ Meets Expectations	☐ Exceeds Expectations
Comments:			

Completed by:_____ **Date:**_____

<u>Summary</u> of written comments from <u>ALL</u> committee members for student concerning performance on proposal presentation / defense:

Chair of Examining Committee Signature_____ Date:_____