

STUDENT:

DATE:

PPOL Dissertation Defense Rubric

Table 3: Rubric for Dissertation Defense

	Unacceptable (1)	Proficient (2)	Distinguished (3)	SCORE
Statement of problem	No evidence provided to support the significance of the study. The problem/project is not relevant to the field of Public Policy broadly defined. A description of the approach for investigating the problem is not provided or is incomplete.	The study is relevant to the field of Public Policy. There is adequate evidence provided to support the significance of the problem. The approach for investigating the problem is appropriate.	The study has a strong theoretical basis and the findings can be generalized to other populations. Abundant and compelling evidence was provided to support the significance of the study for the field of Public Policy. The proposed work has the potential to make a significant contribution to the field.	
Review of the literature	The material reviewed is not relevant to the goals/focus of the study. The material reviewed is out of date, omits seminal work, or is insufficient. The quality of the material reviewed is marginal or not appropriate for scientific research.	The introduction is well organized, integrates findings from many sources. The review is thoughtful and provides clarification of the area of study and supports the chosen methodology. Articles are relevant, timely, and seminal, coming primarily from primary sources.	Extensive review that includes summaries, synthesis, and critiques of rigorous evidence-based sources. The review provides strong support for the aims of the project and the research design and methodology selected.	
Methodology	Significant aspects of the design and methodology are inappropriate for the problem/hypotheses under study.	Appropriate application of existing methodology for the problem/hypotheses under study	Study design and methodology are appropriate and represent the quality necessary for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.	
Results (Data Analysis and Findings)	The analyses are not appropriate or accurately described. Major errors in data analysis or reporting of findings were made. Inappropriate interpretation of the results.	The analyses are appropriate and accurately described. Few errors in data analysis or reporting of findings were made. Maintains distinctions between data and interpretations of results.	Reports data analyses with a level of clarity and accuracy necessary for publication in a refereed journal or other publication outlet.	

	Unacceptable (1)	Proficient (2)	Distinguished (3)	SCORE
Quality of writing	Did not adhere to style requirements of student's discipline of emphasis. Numerous errors in spelling, typing, grammar and format. The writing is poorly organized and lacks clarity. Writing is not of the expected professional quality. Citations not used appropriately with numerous errors.	Few or minor errors in style requirements. Minimal errors in spelling, typing, grammar, and format. Some organizational and clarity errors but they do not detract from the ability to accurately convey ideas. Citations used appropriately with few errors.	Very few to no apparent errors in style requirements. Very few to no apparent errors in spelling, typing, grammar and format. Well organized and clear' accurately convey ideas. The writing is of professional quality. Citations used appropriately with very few to no errors.	
Oral Component	The presentation had significant errors or omissions. Responses to questions were inappropriate or demonstrated lack of understanding of the literature and study findings. The presentation did not follow a logical sequence. The presentation was not well paced. The presenter did not demonstrate confidence and/or ability to engage the audience.	The presentation had few errors or omissions. Responses to questions were appropriate or demonstrated a good understanding of the literature and study findings. The presentation followed a logical sequence. The presentation was well paced. The presenter demonstrated confidence and/or ability to engage the audience.	The presentation was accurate and comprehensive. Responses to questions were appropriate or demonstrated an in- depth understanding of the literature and study findings. The presentation followed a logical sequence. The presentation was well paced. The presentation was of professional quality and served as a model for other students.	
Interpretations, Conclusions, and Implications	Draws unrelated, inaccurate or overstated conclusions. Stated limitations of the study are inaccurate or insufficient. Implications for future research and practice are omitted, insufficient or unrelated to the findings.	Draws accurate conclusions from the data. Stated limitations of the study are appropriate. Implications for future research and practice are thoughtful and appropriately related to the findings and/or the limitations in the study	Conclusions are accurate, appropriately linked to the problem and methodology. Implications for practice and future research are compelling in their potential applications. Conclusions add to the knowledge based and are insightful in their implications for further study.	
			TOTAL	
			AVERAGE	