

Dissertation Grading Guidelines

Student Name:

Instructions: Use the checkboxes for detailed feedback

Date____

Criterion	eckboxes for detailed feedback. Not Acceptable Scholarship (Fail)	Approvable Scholarship; however revisions	Acceptable Scholarship (Pass)
		would be needed (Pass with condition)	
1. Literature Review.	□ The research focus is unclear	☐ The focus is reasonably clear	☐ The research focus is clear and compelling
Mastery of theories	□ Arguments are flawed or poorly developed	□ Arguments are coherent and clearly	□ Arguments are of excellent quality
and concepts in the	□ Objectives are poorly described	expressed	□ Objectives are well-defined and articulated
field demonstrated in	□ Limited evidence of critical thinking	Objectives are communicated	Exhibits superior critical analytic skills
problem statement	Poor grasp of the research problem and	□ Acceptable level of critical skills	□ Highly refined analysis of the research
and literature review	literature	Understand the research problem and	problem and literature
	Limited grasp of theoretical issues	literature	□ Clearly mastered issues of theory
	Supportive materials are weak	Understands theoretical issues	Supportive materials are strong
	Hypotheses are flawed or unclear	Supportive materials are adequate	Hypotheses are well-developed and
		Hypotheses are adequately stated	connected to analyses
2. Methods.	The design is flawed or does not align with	□ The design adequately aligns with the	□ The design is innovative and/or has
Mastery of methods	the focus of the research	focus of the research	excellent alignment with the focus of
of inquiry, design,	Vague or ineffective plan for analysis	The plan for analysis is adequate	research
and instrumentation	Sampling/data preprocessing is inadequate	Sampling/data preprocessing is	The plan for analysis goes beyond the
	The instruments used are not appropriate.	appropriate	obvious
	Reliability and validity of the analysis are	Methods are reasonably adequately	□ Sampling/data preprocessing is appropriate
	absent or unclear	described	and well-justified
	No ethical consideration	Ethical issues is addressed in some	Methods are described in exceptional detai
		extend but not fully	Ethical consideration is addressed
3. Contribution to	Limited potential for discovery	Some potential for discovery	Exceptional potential for discovery
Discipline.	Does not extend previously published work,	□ Further develops previous work, findings,	Significantly furthers knowledge from
Originality and	findings, methods, or theories in the field	methods, or theories	previous works
potential for	Limited theoretical or applied significance	Reasonable theoretical or applied	Substantial theoretical or applied
contribution to	Lacking publication potential	significance	significance
discipline		Reasonable publication potential	Exceptional publication potential
4. Quality of Written	Writing is confusing or unclear	Writing is adequate	Writing is of publication quality
Expression.	Numerous grammatical and spelling errors	Some grammatical and spelling errors	No grammatical or spelling errors apparent
	apparent	apparent	Organization is excellent
	Organization is poor	Organization is logical	

5. Oral Presentation	 No or minimal eye contact with audience and very little movement or descriptive gesture Inaudible or too loud, speak speed is too slow/fast, speaker seemed uninterested and used monotone. Used no visual or most visuals are too distracting instead of helping The organization is poor. Presentation is too long or too short 	 Consistent use of direct eye contact with some audience. Movements or gestures enhance articulation to some extend Overall clear articulation but not as polished. Contain some mumbling or uneven rate Visual aids are used but needs to be improved at some parts Organization is logical but needs improvement 	 Maintains good eye contact with the entire audience, and body movements seemed fluid and helped the audience visualize Uses a clear, audible voice and appropriate speed and demonstrates enthusiasm and confidence Visual aids are well-prepared, informative, effective, and not distracting Organization is excellent. The length of presentation is within the assigned time limits
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Additional comments: