## Dissertation Grading Guidelines

**Student Name:** ____________________________  
**Instructions:** Use the checkboxes for detailed feedback.

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

Additional comments: