**Rubric for Thesis or Dissertation Exam**

BEST Student:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

BEST Exam Committee Member:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

This form is intended to provide a common set of criteria for the assessment of M.S. and PhD thesis or dissertation. Each committee member should complete this form after reading the thesis. Please rate each element on the following scale:

(1) Expert, (2) Advanced, (3) Intermediate 4) Basic, and 5) Introductory

Expert = proficiency expected of an advanced postdoctoral researcher or beginning faculty

Introductory = proficiency of a Bachelor’s degree recipient.

M.S. thesis must meet intermediate level or above.

PhD dissertation must meet advanced level or above.

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| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  | **Written** | **Oral** | | **Introduction** |  |  | | Identifies a meaningful research question |  |  | | Hypotheses or approaches are presented that are tightly aligned to the question |  |  | | The literature review is accurate and places the research question in proper context |  |  | | The literature review demonstrates the ability to discriminate between the most important/informative papers and less important/informative ones |  |  | | The introduction is written in a manner that is accessible to both specialists and non-specialists in the field |  |  | | **Methods** |  |  | | The methods selected are appropriate to the research question |  |  | | Mathematical models/design principles are appropriate and accurate |  |  | | Methods are described in sufficient detail that the experiments could be reproduced by others |  |  | | Methodological challenges are recognized and workable solutions or alternative approaches are proposed |  |  | | Results and Analysis |  |  | | The data obtained are adequate in quantity and nature to address the research question |  |  | | Data are thoughtfully and carefully analyzed in an objective manner |  |  | | Statistics are mentioned and appropriate |  |  | | Figures and tables present results in an easily interpretable fashion |  |  | | **Discussion/Conclusions** |  |  | | Conclusions drawn are adequately supported by the data |  |  | | Discussion connects the results to issues in the literature and conveys the significance of the findings to the field of study |  |  | | **Mechanics** |  |  | | Minimal errors in spelling or grammar |  |  | | Literature citations in the text and bibliography are accurate |  |  | | **Professionalism** |  |  | | Thesis work is conducted and presented in a responsible and ethical manner |  |  |   Please note any additional comments on additional pages. |  |