

M.S. Thesis Oral Defense

This form is intended to provide a common set of criteria for the assessment of the M.S. Thesis Oral Defense. Each committee member should complete this form after the defense.

Please score the following elements of the M.S. Thesis Oral Defense according to the rubric below. *Expert* is the proficiency expected of a Ph.D. recipient and *Introductory* defined as the proficiency of someone who has not acquired skills beyond that of a bachelor's degree.

	Score	Comments
Material relating to thesis		
Command of literature, background		
Verbal communication		

M.S. Thesis Oral Defense Rubric Criteria

Criteria:	Introductory	Intermediate	Advanced	Expert
Material Relating to Thesis	Little theory development, methods unclear or unjustified.	Simplistic theory, may disregard difficulties. Methods are fairly clear.	Builds on existing theory, is well developed. Methods are very clear and well justified.	Insightful, developed theory, methods are extensively described and supported.
Command of Literature, Background	Research background is limited; incomplete knowledge of previous work; may be unaware of key studies in the field, and studies that challenge the student's perspective.	Research background is somewhat limited, may be unaware of some relevant studies. Is beginning to show familiarity with the literature, but may omit some competing work.	Research background is comprehensive, with clear familiarity of the literature. Is aware of most work in the field, providing a balanced view of background research where relevant.	Research background is extensive, clear fluency with the literature. Student is aware of all major sources, and may cite unexpected sources. Student can speak at length of the limitations of previous studies, and provides a comprehensive, balanced perspective.
Verbal Communication	Has difficulty speaking clearly, is difficult to follow. Responses to questions or criticism are off topic or very limited.	Student speaks somewhat clearly, may be slightly hard to follow. Responses to questions and criticism may be incomplete or flawed.	Speaks fairly clearly, explanations are generally understandable. Is able to answer nearly all questions and respond to criticism.	Speaks clearly, providing clear explanations. Has well-reasoned, complete responses to questions and criticism.