

**Student Name:**

**Rubric for Evaluating Agronomy MS Thesis and PhD Dissertation Defense**

*Page 1 should be completed by the student or committee chairman prior to distribution to committee*

**Chair of Evaluation Committee:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Advisor:** \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Circle One:**            Master's Thesis Defense

Dissertation Defense

**Thesis/Dissertation Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Committee Members (include department):**

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At the conclusion of the defense, **each committee member should fill out the response sheet**. For each attribute which a committee member feels is somewhat or very deficient, a short explanation should be provided. **Confidential Comment** sections at the bottom of the rubric are provided for explanations of the reasoning behind the overall evaluation of the examinee's performance if desired. Completed forms are to be treated as **confidential** and are to be **turned in to the Graduate Coordinator**, not the student.

A summary of **written comments** from the committee members **WILL** be provided to the student by the chair of the examining committee. A verbal summary of the overall evaluation of the student's performance **WILL** also be provided to the student by that individual.

All examination documents (rubrics and written comments) must be completed regardless of the outcome of the presentation or defense. A copy of the completed forms (both rubrics and written comments) must be sent to the Chair of Graduate Studies within 48 hours of the conclusion of the Master's or Doctorate defense.

**Student Name:**

**To be completed by each committee member. Please check boxes for all evaluation criteria you feel are appropriate within each attribute category.**

Attribute	Does Not Meet Expectations	Meets Expectations
Overall quality presentation  <input type="checkbox"/> Attribute not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> Poorly organized <input type="checkbox"/> Poor presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Poor communication skills <input type="checkbox"/> Slides and handouts difficult to read	<input type="checkbox"/> Clearly organized <input type="checkbox"/> Clear presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Good communication skills <input type="checkbox"/> Slides and handouts clear
Overall breadth of knowledge  <input type="checkbox"/> Attribute not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> Presentation unacceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation reveals critical weaknesses in depth of knowledge in subject matter <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation does not reflect well developed critical thinking skills <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation is narrow in scope	<input type="checkbox"/> Presentation acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation reveals some depth of knowledge in subject matter <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation reveals above average critical thinking skills <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation reveals the ability to draw from knowledge in several disciplines
Quality of response to questions  <input type="checkbox"/> Attribute not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> Responses are incomplete <input type="checkbox"/> Arguments are poorly presented <input type="checkbox"/> Respondent exhibits lack of knowledge in subject area <input type="checkbox"/> Responses do not meet level expected of a (Master's / Ph.D.) graduate	<input type="checkbox"/> Responses are complete <input type="checkbox"/> Arguments are well organized <input type="checkbox"/> Respondent exhibits adequate knowledge in subject area <input type="checkbox"/> Responses meet level expected of a (Master's / Ph.D.) graduate
Use of communication aids  <input type="checkbox"/> Attribute not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> Communication aids are poorly prepared <input type="checkbox"/> Too much information included <input type="checkbox"/> Listeners are confused <input type="checkbox"/> Communication aids are used inappropriately	<input type="checkbox"/> Communication aids contribute to the quality of the presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate information is included <input type="checkbox"/> Listeners can easily follow the presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Some material is not supported by communication aids

**Completed by:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Name:**

**To be completed by each committee member. Please check boxes for all evaluation criteria you feel are appropriate within each attribute category.**

Attribute	Does Not Meet Expectations	Meets Expectations
Overall quality of theory / science  <input type="checkbox"/> Attribute not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> Arguments are incorrect, incoherent, or flawed <input type="checkbox"/> Objectives are poorly defined <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates rudimentary critical thinking skills <input type="checkbox"/> Does not reflect understanding of subject matter and associated literature <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates poor understanding of theoretical concepts <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates limited originality <input type="checkbox"/> Displays limited creativity and insight	<input type="checkbox"/> Arguments are coherent and clear <input type="checkbox"/> Objectives are clear <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates average critical thinking skills <input type="checkbox"/> Reflects understanding of subject matter and associated literature <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates understanding of theoretical concepts <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates originality <input type="checkbox"/> Displays creativity and insight
Contribution to discipline  <input type="checkbox"/> Attribute not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> Limited evidence of discovery <input type="checkbox"/> Limited expansion upon previous research <input type="checkbox"/> Limited theoretical or applied significance <input type="checkbox"/> Limited publication potential	<input type="checkbox"/> Some evidence of discovery <input type="checkbox"/> Builds upon previous research <input type="checkbox"/> Reasonable theoretical or applied significance <input type="checkbox"/> Reasonable publication potential
Quality of writing  <input type="checkbox"/> Attribute not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> Writing is weak <input type="checkbox"/> Numerous grammatical and spelling errors apparent <input type="checkbox"/> Organization is poor <input type="checkbox"/> Documentation is poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Writing is adequate <input type="checkbox"/> Some grammatical and spelling errors apparent <input type="checkbox"/> Organization is logical <input type="checkbox"/> Documentation is adequate
Overall Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/> Does not meet expectations	<input type="checkbox"/> Meets Expectations
Confidential Comments:		

**Completed by:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Name:**

**Summary of written comments from ALL committee members for student concerning performance on thesis/dissertation presentation / defense:**

**Chair of Examining Committee Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_