

Rubric for the Thesis and Reading List Oral Defense

Providing brief comments will give additional feedback to the student as well as inform the post-defense deliberation among committee members.

A student who attains *honors* will typically receive a rating of at least *satisfactory* (4) on each of the dimensions below and on the rubrics connected with other facets of the thesis and defense. This is not an inviolable rule. The post-defense discussion should carefully consider the range and pattern of ratings, the rationale behind each committee member's ratings, and the relative importance of each dimension. Likewise, the ratings of a student who receives *highest honors* are almost always all *outstanding* (6).

THESIS

1. Presentation

Unacceptable		Marginal	Satisfactory		Outstanding
1	2	3	4	5	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction is interesting and engaging • Speech is clear and articulate • Presentation is well-organized and easy to follow • Media and format are appropriate for content • Presentation appropriately represents the thesis project 					
Comments:					

2. Discussion with Committee

Unacceptable		Marginal	Satisfactory		Outstanding
1	2	3	4	5	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions are answered well and with reference to thesis student's own work • Demonstrates knowledge of the subject • Comfortably engages committee • Demonstrates understanding of and facility with the content of the thesis • Demonstrates understanding of and facility with the disciplinary context and implications of the thesis • Findings central to the thesis are extended to questions external to the discipline 					
Comments:					

READING LIST

1. List and Annotations

Unacceptable		Marginal	Satisfactory		Outstanding
1	2	3	4	5	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works demonstrate a breadth of interests and education as well as intellectual depth • Reading list primarily reflects undergraduate experience • Annotations provide insight into the works and the student • Annotations open doors for engaging conversation 					
Comments:					

2. Conversation with Committee

Unacceptable		Marginal	Satisfactory		Outstanding
1	2	3	4	5	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student recognizes connections among works • Student expands upon annotations in a thoughtful and meaningful way • Student is comfortable responding to questions from committee • Student is able to explore threads tangential to the works • Texts are clearly demonstrated to have played a significant role in the student's academic development 					
Comments:					