**Written Thesis and Oral Defense (MS thesis) – rev. 11/16**

Student Number of refereed journal articles accepted or in press by today \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Committee member\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Student Learning Outcome** | | **SCORE** | **SCALE** |
| **SLO 3**  Oral presentation skills | Organization |  | **4 = Exemplary**  **3 = Proficient**  **2 = Marginal**  **1 = Unacceptable** |
| Language |  |
| Delivery |  |
| Supporting material |  |
| Central message |  |
| **SLO 3 Oral presentation skills 1  SUM** |  |
| **SLO 3**  Written skills2 | Context and purpose |  | **4 = Exemplary**  **3 = Proficient**  **2 = Marginal**  **1 = Unacceptable** |
| Content development |  |
| Conventions |  |
| Sources and evidence |  |
| Syntax and mechanics |  |
| **SLO 3 Written skills2 SUM** |  |
| **Student Learning Outcome** | | **SCORE** | **SCALE** |
| **SLO 4**  Critical thinking and application of inquiry and analysis3 | Clear statement of research problem and motivation |  | **4 = Exemplary**  **3 = Proficient**  **2 = Marginal**  **1 = Unacceptable** |
| Value of research demonstrated |  |
| Knowledge of literature |  |
| Well-defined hypotheses or objectives |  |
| Sound methods/tools |  |
| Data interpretation and analysis |  |
| Conclusions |  |
| Broader impact and limitations |  |
| Independent research and developed expertise |  |
| **SLO 4 – PhD** **Critical thinking** **SUM** |  |

These scores do not determine whether the student passes or fails the oral defense or the written thesis/dissertation. They are for the committee to consider when deciding on whether the student passes or not. All committee members should fill out a form and copies should be delivered to the Graduate Coordinator’s office for deposit in the student’s file.

Supervisory committee chair - please share the results of this evaluation with your student, either summarizing their strengths/weaknesses or showing the individual score sheets.

SLO 3 (oral communication skills) = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (maximum 20, minimum 5)

SLO 3 (written communication skills) = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (maximum 20, minimum 5)

SLO 4 (critical thinking ability) = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (maximum 36, minimum 9)

Additional comments (strengths/weaknesses):

1 Taken from Written Communication VALUE Rubric – Association of American Colleges and Universities

2 Taken from Oral Communication VALUE Rubric - Association of American Colleges and Universities

3 Modified from Inquiry and Analysis VALUE Rubric - Association of American Colleges and Universities

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Student Learning Outcome** | | **4 - Exemplary** | **3 - Proficient** | **2- Marginal** | **1 - Unacceptable** |
| **SLO 3**  Written skills 1  Max. 20 points, min. 5 points | **Context and purpose** | Demonstrates a thorough understanding of context, audience, and purpose that focuses all elements of the work. | Demonstrates adequate consideration of context, audience and purpose, and a clear focus of the work. | Demonstrates awareness of context, audience, and purpose of the work. | Does not demonstrate attention to context, audience, and purpose of the work. |
| **Content development** | Consistently uses appropriate, relevant and compelling content to illustrate mastery of the subject, conveying the writer’s understanding. | Consistently uses appropriate, relevant, and compelling content to explore ideas within the subject. | Use appropriate and relevant content to develop and explore ideas throughout most of the work. | Does not use appropriate and relevant content to develop simple ideas. |
| **Conventions** | Detailed attention to and successful execution of all conventions specific to the discipline (organization, content, presentation, formatting, style) | Consistent use of important conventions specific to the discipline. | Follows expectations appropriate for specific discipline for organization, content and presentation. | Does not use a consistent system for basic organization and presentation. |
| **Sources and evidence** | Demonstrates skillful use of high-quality, credible, relevant sources to develop ideas that are appropriate. | Demonstrates consistent use of credible, relevant sources to support ideas. | Demonstrates an attempt to use credible and/or relevant sources to support ideas. | Does not use sources to support ideas. |
| **Syntax and mechanics** | Uses language that skillfully communicates meaning to readers with clarity and fluency, and is virtually error-free. | Uses straightforward language that generally conveys meaning to readers and has few errors. | Uses language that generally conveys meaning to readers with clarity but may include errors. | Uses language that sometimes impedes meaning because of errors in usage. |
| **Student Learning Outcome** | | **4 - Exemplary** | **3 - Proficient** | **2- Marginal** | **1 - Unacceptable** |
| **SLO 3**  Oral presentation skills2  Max. 20 points, min. 5 points | **Organization**  (specific introduction and conclusion, sequence of material in body, and transitions) | Organizational pattern is clearly and consistently observable, is skillful, and makes the content of the presentation cohesive | Organizational pattern is clearly and consistently observable | Organizational pattern is intermittently observable | Organizational pattern is not observable |
| **Language** | Language choices enhance the effectiveness of the presentation and are appropriate for the audience. | Language choices generally support the effectiveness of the presentation and are appropriate for the audience. | Language choices partially support the effectiveness of the presentation and are appropriate for the audience. | Language choices are unclear and minimally support the effectiveness of the presentation and are not appropriate for the audience. |
| **Delivery**  (posture, use of pointer, eye contact, vocal expressiveness) | Delivery techniques make the presentation compelling, and speaker appears polished and confident. | Delivery techniques make the presentation interesting and speaker appears comfortable. | Delivery techniques make the presentation understandable, and speaker appears tentative. | Delivery techniques detract from the understandability of the presentation and speaker appears uncomfortable. |
| **Supporting material**  (explanations, examples, illustrations, figures, photos, diagrams, statistics) | A variety of supporting materials makes appropriate reference to information or analysis that significantly supports the presentation. | Supporting materials make appropriate reference to information or analysis that generally supports the presentation. | Supporting materials make appropriate reference to information or analysis that partially supports the presentation. | Insufficient supporting materials make reference to information or analysis that minimally supports the presentation. |
| **Central message** | Central message is compelling (strongly stated, appropriately repeated, memorable and strongly supported). | Central message is clear and consistent with the supporting material. | Central message is basically understandable but is not often repeated or is not memorable. | Central message can be deduced, but is not explicitly stated in the presentation. |
| **Student Learning Outcome** | | **4 - Exemplary** | **3 - Proficient** | **2- Marginal** | **1 - Unacceptable** |
| **SLO 4 –M.S.**  Critical thinking and application of inquiry and analysis3  Max. 36 points, min. 9 points | Has stated the research problem clearly,  providing motivation for undertaking the research | Clear statement of the research problem with well stated associated rationale | Statement of research problem with associated rationale | Unclear statement of research problem OR rationale for undertaking the research is not well developed | Unclear statement of research problem AND rationale for undertaking the research is not well developed |
| Demonstrated the potential  value of solution to the research problem in advancing  knowledge within the area of study | Clearly states the value of the proposed research | States the value of proposed research | Recognizes the value of the research but didn’t state explicitly | Doesn’t recognize the potential value of the proposed research |
| Demonstrates sound  knowledge of literature in the area, and of prior work on the  specific research problem | Synthesizes in-depth information from relevant sources representing various points of view/approaches | Presents in-depth information from relevant sources presenting various points of view/approaches | Presents information from relevant sources representing limited points of view/approaches | Presents information from irrelevant sources representing limited points of view/approaches |
| Research is creative and original with well-defined hypotheses or objectives | Highly creative and original with well-defined hypotheses or objectives | Somewhat creative and original with well-defined hypotheses or objectives | Research not very creative and original OR hypotheses or objectives not well-defined | Research neither creative nor original AND hypotheses or objectives not well-defined |
| Has applied sound state-of-the field  research methods/tools to solve the defined problem and has  described the methods/tools effectively | All elements of the methodology are skillfully developed. Appropriate methodology may be synthesized from across disciplines or from relevant subdisciplines | Critical elements of the methodology are appropriately developed, however, more subtle elements are ignored or unaccounted for | Critical elements of the methodology are missing, incorrectly developed, or unfocused | Design of experiments demonstrates a misunderstanding of the methodology |
| Analyzed and interpreted research results/data  effectively | Organizes and synthesizes evidence to reveal insightful patterns, differences, or similarities related to focus | Organizes evidence to reveal important patterns, differences, or similarities related to focus | Organizes evidence, but the organization is not effective in revealing important patterns, differences, or similarities | Lists evidence, but it is not organized and/or is unrelated to focus |
| Conclusions | Conclusions are logical extrapolations from the research findings | Conclusions focused solely on research findings. | Conclusions are so general that they apply beyond the scope of the research findings | Conclusions are ambiguous, illogical, or unsupportable from inquiry findings |
| Demonstrated awareness of broader  implications and limitations of the concluded research | Insightfully discusses in detail relevant and supported limitations and implications | Discusses relevant and supported limitations and implications | Presents relevant and supported limitations and implications | Presents limitations and implications but they are possibly irrelevant and unsupported |
|  | Has demonstrated capability for  independent research in the area of study and expertise in the  area, appropriate to the degree | Research was conceived and conducted independently and candidate has demonstrated a high level of expertise in the area | Research was conceived and conducted with minimal supervision. Candidate is confident in the area of research | Research topic and methodology was conceived with much supervision. Candidate shows some competence in the area | Research topic and methodology was provided to the student and candidate shows little expertise in the area |