

Rubric for a Successful Doctoral Dissertation Oral Defense

Category	Considerations for Ratings
Research Questions/ Introduction	Clear introduction of the problem; provides justification for the study; clarifies questions and provides a clearly articulated and defensible hypothesis
Literature Review	Identifies relevant research and literature; well-organized and timely critique
Theoretical Framework (If applicable)	Uses theory, if applicable, to generate the hypothesis or to make the problem area more clear
Research Methodology	Identifies appropriate methods and techniques; identifies any limitations, and a clear plan for analysis.
Analysis/ Results	Clearly align with hypothesis and methodology; results are presented and clearly summarized
Discussion/ Implications	Clear summary of key insights gained; clarifies how findings and hypothesis advance the field; new knowledge is discussed along with implications of findings future research
Quality of writing	Well-organized; cohesive; free of mechanical and grammatical errors
References and Citations	Appropriate use of references and in-text citations; Correct format of citations (Turabian or MLA for English)
Oral Presentation	Responses are well-poised and demonstrates knowledge of field of study; answers questions accurately, able to clarify concerns in the document; articulate with appropriate word choice; body language is confident and professional; ability to maintain eye contact and poise; responsive to feedback

