

Thesis Defense Rubric

Student Name: _____

Date: _____

Thesis Committee Chair: _____

Each section should receive a score of 1, 2, 3, or 4 (to be filled by committee chair with consensus from committee members)

4=exceeds expectations, 3=meets expectations, 2=partially meets expectations, 1=does not meet expectations

Section	Score
Chooses a research question of scientific interest/importance	
Understands public health importance of chosen topic	
Performs a synthesis of the literature	
Demonstrates an understanding of mechanisms underlying study aims	
Demonstrates in-depth expertise in at least one subject area	
Specific Aims <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulates hypotheses relative to study design 	
Methods 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses appropriate study design • Uses appropriate statistical methods to evaluate study aims (Learning Outcome 4) 	
Methods 2 Demonstrates clear understanding of strengths and limitations of epidemiologic methods	
Quality of writing (Learning Outcome 5) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thesis free of grammatical and spelling errors • Thesis written clearly and succinctly 	
Quality of oral presentation (Learning Outcome 5) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slides • Oral presentation 	
Response to questions following presentation (Learning Outcome 5)	
Overall Assessment	

Comments:

Committee chair: _____

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Process

The student needs to submit the written thesis to committee members to review and provide comments at least 2 weeks before the defense. On the day of the defense the student needs to make an oral presentation of the thesis, following which the committee members will ask questions. The grade will be assigned based on the written document, oral presentation, and response to questions.

The committee members will give one set of scores after discussing and reaching a consensus.

A grade of 1 on the Overall Assessment will constitute a failure