

### PhD Dissertation Defense Rubric

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Each section should receive a score of 1, 2, or 3 (to be completed with committee consensus)  
 3= exceeds expectations, 2= meets expectations, 1= does not meet expectations

Section	Score
Chooses a research question of scientific interest/importance	
Understands public health importance of chosen topic	
Demonstrates an understanding of the biologic mechanism	
Demonstrates in-depth expertise in subject area of dissertation	
Performs a synthesis of the literature	
Specific Aims	
Methods 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply methods and principles of sound epidemiologic practice in design and conduct of dissertation research (including those related to data collection, processing, management, documentation, and security, as appropriate for a given dissertation) (<b>Learning Outcome 6</b>)</li> </ul>	
Methods 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply methods and principles of sound and ethical practice in design and conduct of dissertation research (<b>Learning Outcome 6</b>)</li> </ul>	
Methods 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply appropriate statistical methods to analyze data and answer research questions</li> </ul>	
Results <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Descriptions of study population, descriptive data main results, supporting analyses</li> </ul>	
Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clearly summarizes results</li> <li>• Relates with existing studies</li> <li>• Discusses limitations and strengths</li> <li>• Implications and next steps</li> </ul>	
Quality of writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dissertation free of grammatical and spelling errors</li> <li>• Dissertation written clearly and succinctly</li> </ul>	
Quality of oral presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slides</li> <li>• Oral presentation</li> </ul>	
Overall Assessment	

Comments:

Dissertation Chair: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Print Name

Dissertation Chair: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature