

**DISSERTATION ORAL DEFENSE**  
**RATING SCALE**  
**SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY**

**PLEASE NOTE:** **ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE MUST BE PRESENT FOR THE ORAL DEFENSE.**  
**IF ALL MEMBERS ARE NOT PRESENT, THE DEFENSE MUST BE RESCHEDULED.**

**STUDENT:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CLASS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Committee Chair)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Please evaluate this student's demonstration of knowledge and competency in professional/scientific research areas as compared to other graduate or professional students in psychology whom you have known, who have completed **2 years** of post-baccalaureate work in professional areas of psychology. If the student's performance is rated unacceptable (0) for either the written or oral portion, the student is required to engage in remedial work and repeat the oral defense; if either evaluation is Below Average/Marginal, the student may be required to repeat the oral defense at the Committee's discretion.

**THE PROFESSIONAL DISSERTATION (written work sample)** is a scholarly or creative work that meets the following criteria:

- It is an original creative work.
- It is produced independently by the student with limited technical guidance from the Chair and Committee.
- It is a product that exemplifies the student's ability to think critically and to critically evaluate research, theory or other scholarly work.
- It represents a synthesis and integration of scholarly work, research or theoretical perspective.
- It represents a substantive scholarly contribution, demonstrating focus and depth of knowledge in a particular area of professional psychology.
- It represents a vehicle for the student to formulate and challenge hypotheses and to demonstrate an ability to communicate clearly both in writing and orally.
- It is a project or undertaking the topic of which is generally psychological in nature and consistent with the School's mission.

**Please continue on next page ....**

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I. **EVALUATION OF STUDENT'S WRITTEN MATERIALS** (Work Sample) -- Based on this written work sample, this student's knowledge and competency in professional/scientific research areas is:

(Circle One)

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Unacceptable Performance	Below Average, Marginal	Low	Mid Average	High	Higher than Average	Exceptional Performance

**THE PROFESSIONAL DISSERTATION ORAL EXAMINATION** is designed to accomplish the following objectives:

- To evaluate the breadth and depth of the candidate's knowledge in the subject matter of the professional dissertation as well as in related academic, scientific or professional areas.
- To evaluate the candidate's ability to think critically and to critically evaluate research, theory or other scholarly work.
- To evaluate the candidate's ability to synthesize and integrate scholarly work, research or theoretical perspectives.
- To evaluate the candidate's ability to communicate clearly both orally and in writing.

II. **EVALUATION OF STUDENT'S ORAL EXAMINATION** (Panel Meeting) -- Based on the student's performance during the oral examination, this student's knowledge and competency in professional/scientific research areas is:

(Circle One)

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Unacceptable Performance	Below Average, Marginal	Low	Mid Average	High	Higher than Average	Exceptional Performance

III. **RECOMMENDATIONS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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Signature of Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Member \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Member \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Member \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_