

Evaluation Rubric for **Dissertation and Dissertation Defense for PhD** in the  
Animal and Dairy Sciences Graduate Programs  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Name of the Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Examination \_\_\_\_\_

**The mentor fills in the committee's assessment of the student's performance on this exam under the criteria listed below and sends the completed form to the student and to the Graduate Program Manager.**

<b>Assessment Criteria (circle or highlight number)</b>	<b>Does not meet Expectations</b>		<b>Meets Expectations</b>		<b>Exceeds Expectations</b>	
<u>Research Problem</u> : Clearly states the research problem in the context of the literature in the area of study. Provides a strong justification for undertaking the research and effectively articulates the potential impact of proposed research.	1	2	3	4	5	6
<u>Literature</u> : Demonstrates critical thinking and the ability to synthesize relevant literature and define the knowledge gaps in the field of study. Clearly articulates how their research will address this knowledge gap and advance the field.	1	2	3	4	5	6
<u>Hypothesis</u> : Clearly states the hypotheses that are based on scientific literature and/or preliminary findings.	1	2	3	4	5	6
<u>Research Methods/Strategy</u> : Applies robust research methods/tools to test the hypotheses and find solution(s) to the defined research problem. Provides clear explanation of methodological choices and discusses the potential pitfalls of the chosen methods.	1	2	3	4	5	6
<u>Data Analysis and Interpretation</u> : Data analysis is rigorous, objective, thorough and applies appropriate statistical tools. Makes valid and nuanced interpretation of data within the constraints of experimental caveats.	1	2	3	4	5	6
<u>Conclusions</u> : Provides insightful discussion of conclusions in the context of literature to draw connections or point to disagreements with published work. Provides a compelling argument pertaining to the importance of the findings in closing the knowledge gap in literature (originally identified).	1	2	3	4	5	6
<u>Oral Communication</u> : Communicates research plan with clarity and professionalism orally.	1	2	3	4	5	6

<u>Written Communication</u> : Communicates research plan with clarity and professionalism in writing.	1	2	3	4	5	6
<u>Independence</u> : Demonstrates the ability to conceptualize and conduct independent research and make original contributions to the field of study.	1	2	3	4	5	6
<u>Impact</u> : Thesis research represents an original contribution to the area of study.	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Overall Evaluation (circle or highlight number)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>

**Overall Strengths** (if needed, please add additional sheet for comments)

**Areas for Growth** (if needed, please add additional sheet for comments)

**Outcome of Dissertation Defense** (circle one) Passed / Failed / Deferred

**If this paper is a solid example of a dissertation in ADS, then please ask the student if they are okay with this paper being offered as an example to future students.**

**Share the paper on the website?**  
 N/A                      Yes                      No

**Faculty Advisor Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_