

Rubric for Evaluating PhD Dissertation

*This page should be filled out by the student or Committee Chairman/advisor
Next page should be distributed to the Dissertation Committee, one to each member
(Version updated September 27, 2022)*

Student _____ Date of Defense _____

Advisor _____ Date of Dissertation Proposal: _____

Date of Enrollment in Program: _____ Date Prelim Exam Passed: _____

Dissertation Title _____

Committee Members and Department

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

- At the conclusion of the defense, **each committee member should fill out the response sheet (next page)**. For each attribute which a committee member feels is somewhat or very deficient, a short explanation should be provided. Since completed forms are to be treated as **confidential**, they are to be **turned in to the Committee Chair (advisor)**, not the student.
- This document should be completed, even if the committee feels that the dissertation is unacceptable.
- A copy of the dissertation abstract and conclusions, as well as copies of all journal publications or referred conference proceedings that have already resulted from the dissertation work, must accompany this evaluation form. All materials must be sent to bioegadm@pitt.edu.
- Student has accepted a position at _____
(leave blank if student has not yet accepted a position). Indicate whether student has or intends to apply (___yes, ___no) and/or has been accepted (___yes, ___no) to a medical school

Ph.D. Dissertation Response Sheet

(one for each committee member – **check appropriate category** and return directly and confidentially to the student's advisor or the Chair of the Bioengineering Graduate Committee)

Attribute	Very Deficient	Somewhat Deficient	Acceptable	Very Good	Outstanding
Quality of Dissertation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barely acceptable, among the bottom 10% of dissertations. <input type="checkbox"/> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acceptable, but disappointing (75th to 90th percentile of dissertations). <input type="checkbox"/> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acceptable (25th to 75th percentile of dissertations) <input type="checkbox"/> • Extensions possible, but may require more work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Among the 10th to the 25th percentile of dissertations. <input type="checkbox"/> • Provides opportunities for additional, fruitful research. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Among the top 10% of dissertations. <input type="checkbox"/> • Student will be able to further extend. • Solid basis for funded projects.
Contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires committee to stretch to find contribution. <input type="checkbox"/> • Closer to MS than outstanding PhD dissertation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extends prior knowledge to some degree. <input type="checkbox"/> • In total is a contribution but maintains no single major contribution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates originality. <input type="checkbox"/> • Makes some contributions. • Introduces new methodology or techniques to field. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very original work. <input type="checkbox"/> • At least one important contribution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Original and creative. <input type="checkbox"/> • Several important contributions.
Publications and Potential Publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At best a conference proceeding. <input type="checkbox"/> • Nothing has been submitted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential exists for a publication in a second-tier journal. <input type="checkbox"/> • Presented work at least at one conference. • No papers submitted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least one paper has been submitted to a recognized journal. <input type="checkbox"/> • Should be able to publish one or two papers from dissertation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least one paper has been accepted by a recognized journal. <input type="checkbox"/> • Three or more good publications should result. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least one paper has been fully accepted or published in a <u>leading</u> journal. <input type="checkbox"/> • More than three <u>high-impact</u> publications will result.
Quality of Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires a professional editor. <input type="checkbox"/> • Sentence structure, language, and style deficient. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing is weak. <input type="checkbox"/> • A number of typos, grammatical, and spelling errors. • A number of changes required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acceptable (25th to 75th percentile). <input type="checkbox"/> • Limited number of typos, grammatical errors, and spelling. • Some normal changes necessary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very well written. <input type="checkbox"/> • Easy to read and understand. • Very few changes or additions required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reads like an outstanding publication. <input type="checkbox"/> • No typos, grammatical, or spelling errors. • No revisions or changes; acceptable as is.
Defense (Oral Presentation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very poorly organized. <input type="checkbox"/> • Disjointed presentation. • Unable to answer a number of questions. • Slides and handouts of very poor quality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rambled; dwelt too long on less important aspects. <input type="checkbox"/> • Had difficulty with questions. • Some slides and handouts difficult to read. • Typos and other errors in slides. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acceptable – slides and handouts clear. <input type="checkbox"/> • Good presentation skills. • Able to answer most questions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well thought-out slides and handouts. <input type="checkbox"/> • Professional presentation. • Almost all questions addressed in a professional manner. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well organized, very professional. <input type="checkbox"/> • All questions addressed in a knowledgeable and respectful manner. • Slides and handouts outstanding.

Additional comments and/or reasons for any deficiencies: