

# Rubric for PhD defense for Department of Entomology, Penn State

**Student:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Completed by:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions for scoring:** Within each criterion, check one box in each row (From Criterion 1: choose one “a,” one “b,” and one “c” from the three columns; same for other criteria), then add the values earned for each criterion (1 point for each box under “Does not meet expectations,” 2 points for each check box under “Meets expectations,” 3 points for “Exceeds expectations”). Minimum score per Criterion is 2 or 3, max is 6 or 9. At the end of your assessment, you should have 14 checked boxes (no more, no less). Add scores over 5 criteria for total score. Score ranges at bottom determine outcome of defense.

Criterion	Does not meet expectations = 1 points	Meets expectations = 2 points	Exceeds expectations = 3 points	Score
1. Demonstrated ability to apply in-depth knowledge of a specialized field to the design and execution of an original research question	a. <input type="checkbox"/> Framing and context reflects limited understanding of subject and associated literature b. <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates limited critical thinking skills c. <input type="checkbox"/> Inadequate statement of hypotheses and/or objectives are poorly defined	a. <input type="checkbox"/> Framing and context reflects adequate understanding of subject and associated literature b. <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates adequate critical thinking skills c. <input type="checkbox"/> Adequate statement of hypotheses and/or description of objectives	a. <input type="checkbox"/> Framing and context reflects exceptional understanding of subject and associated literature b. <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates excellent critical thinking skills c. <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent statement of hypotheses and/or objectives are well defined	
2. Demonstrated ability to approach solutions of new problems with methodical and logical application of sound scientific methods and entomological principles	a. <input type="checkbox"/> Ineffective research plan b. <input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analyses not performed appropriately or incomplete	a. <input type="checkbox"/> Adequate research plan b. <input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analyses sufficient	a. <input type="checkbox"/> Innovative research plan b. <input type="checkbox"/> Highly competent statistical analyses	
3. Quality of writing	a. <input type="checkbox"/> Organization is poor b. <input type="checkbox"/> Writing is weak and/or unclear c. <input type="checkbox"/> Numerous grammatical and spelling errors	a. <input type="checkbox"/> Organization is good b. <input type="checkbox"/> Writing is adequate c. <input type="checkbox"/> Few grammatical and spelling errors	a. <input type="checkbox"/> Organization is excellent b. <input type="checkbox"/> Writing is excellent and clear c. <input type="checkbox"/> No grammatical and spelling errors	
4. Interpretation, originality, and contribution to discipline	a. <input type="checkbox"/> Inadequate interpretation b. <input type="checkbox"/> Limited novelty c. <input type="checkbox"/> Limited publication potential	a. <input type="checkbox"/> Adequate interpretation b. <input type="checkbox"/> Some novelty c. <input type="checkbox"/> Good publication potential	a. <input type="checkbox"/> Exceptional interpretation b. <input type="checkbox"/> Exceptional novelty c. <input type="checkbox"/> High profile publication potential and/or portions of research project already published	
5. Oral presentation	a. <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation style ineffective b. <input type="checkbox"/> Slides need improvement c. <input type="checkbox"/> Significance of research unclear	a. <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation style effective b. <input type="checkbox"/> Slides adequately conveyed information c. <input type="checkbox"/> Significance of research clear	a. <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation style is exceptional b. <input type="checkbox"/> Slides were very clear and exceptionally effective in conveying information c. <input type="checkbox"/> Significance of research was exceptionally communicated	
<b>Total score:</b>				

Overall judgment: 14-27: Does not meet expectations | 28-36: Meets expectations | 37-42: Exceeds expectations.

**Comments (use back of page if necessary):**