

Oral Defense Examination Outline

Defense Format

1. Student's research is presented.
2. The general audience is excused.
3. Graduate Committee asks the student questions about the research and defense.
4. The student is excused and the committee discusses the thesis defense.
5. A decision is announced. (pass, pass w/ qualifications, or recess.)

A well thought-out, well organized, cogent summary of the student's work including:

- An explanation of how the current work relates to the student's discipline
- The rationale behind the project in the context of available literature.
- If the student has been part of a research team or lab, an explanation of the student's intellectual contribution to the project and description of how the student's work fits into the broader research conducted in this lab.
- The questions or issues the current work was designed to address.
- The way the design, method, and/or approach addressed those questions.
- The analysis of data gathered.
- The results, outcomes, final products, or performance.

1.

An interpretation of results, findings, contributions, insights, and conclusions and their significance. What does this work add to existing knowledge?

2.

A discussion of implications the work suggests for future research or creative endeavor.

3.

A discussion of any applied or clinical implications suggested by the work.

4.

Thoughtful, well-founded responses to all questions the committee members might ask.

5.