Student: _____ **Evaluator:** _____ **Date:** _____

Evaluation of Oral Defense of Thesis/Dissertation	
Mechanical/Logistical Aspects	**Rate 1 - 5**

Preparation

Was the speaker prepared?

Were the computer and projector on?

Was the presentation loaded and the software open?

Was the speaker familiar with the lighting and the use of the computer & projector?

Slides

Readibility

Could you read the text and see the figures?

Was the font size large enough?

Was lighting appropriate for the format of the slides?

Color / Contrast

Did color and other formatting allow distinction between experimental groups?

Did the background hide the data?

Level of Detail

Was the amount of content appropriate?

Were you able to look at content within the time the speaker spent on the slide?

Was there content on the slides that the speaker did not address?

Presentation

Contact with the Audience

Did the presenter face the audience rather than the computer or projector screen?

Did the presenter speak or read to the audience?

Speech

Could you hear?

Did the presenter speak clearly?

Did the presenter speak slowly enough for the audience to 'keep up'?

General Behavior

Did the speaker avoid mannerisms that distracted the audience or detracted from the presentation?

Did the presenter use the pointer only to draw attention to what was on the slides?

Enthusiasm

Did the presenter seem interested in the topic?

Did the presenter know what was coming next?

Content and Logic

Introduction

Was the background sufficient?

Was it appropriate for the audience?

Did it provide a rationale for the problem addressed?

Was a problem or hypothesis clearly stated?

Methods

Was a rationale for experimental design provided?

Did the experiments actually test the hypothesis?

Were methods/experimental designs explained suffiicently to allow interpretation of data?

Coherency and Logic

Did content follow a logical sequence?

Were relationships between individual parts (experiments) or thoughts apparent?

Did concepts build upon what was presented earlier?

Was interpretation valid on the basis of evidence presented?

Conclusions

Were there any?

Were conclusions supported by the data?

Other Factors (general preparedness and effectiveness)

Ability to answer questions

Did the speaker entertain questions?

Did the speaker actually address the question asked?

Was the speaker able to recover if interrupted by a question?

Preparedness

Did the speaker know the details of what was presented?

Was the speaker aware of relevent literature?

Effectiveness

Did the speaker communicate the intent of the research?

Did the speaker communicate interest and excitement about the research?

Rating scale		**Using the rating scale**: A five level rating scale is used for scoring each of the quality indicators in the rubric. In general, ratings of 3 or below are considered acceptable, while ratings of 4 or 5 do not achieve minimal standards for defense.
1	Outstanding	
2	Very Good	
3	Adequate	
4	Fair	
5	Poor	