

**The University of Findlay  
College of Education  
Doctor of Education  
Final Dissertation Defense Rubrics**

**Doctoral Candidate:**  
**Dissertation Title:**

**Date:**

**Oral Dissertation Defense Rubric**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Comment(s)</b>
Study Overview	Clearly and succinctly provides problem & purpose, rationale/significance of study, & RQs, incorporating existing research to <b>defend</b> the necessity of the study & the research “gap” the study addressed		
Theoretical Framework (if relevant)	Delineates & <b>defends</b> an appropriate conceptual/theoretical framework		
Methodology	Explicitly articulates & <b>defends</b> the research methodology, including design, participants, data collection, & data analysis; demonstrates a valid & reliable study, using sources to <i>justify choices</i>		
Results or Findings	Explicitly <b>justifies</b> analysis procedures & describes the study results/findings in detail		
Implications	Seamlessly interweaves findings, existing research, & theoretical framework (if relevant) to address the “so what” for various stakeholders		
Limitations & Recommendations	Identifies study’s strengths/limitations; provides specific actions for various stakeholders & offers suggestions for future research		
Conclusion	Provides final thoughts as expert on the study		
Quality of Defense	Makes eye contact, uses appropriate tone of voice, communicates ideas clearly, & refrains from using silence fillers (um, like, ah, and...); demonstrates ability to present & defend research; provides justification & defense of study design & conclusions		
Quality of Response to Questions	Uses questions to further demonstrate understanding of the topic & elaborate on information presented; responses are complete, clear, & convincing at the scholarly-practitioner level		

### Written Dissertation Defense Rubric

Section	Target	Yes/No	Comment(s)
Introduction	Conveys project within context of literature; strong rationale; purpose clear & focused; explains theoretical framework & approach to inquiry (if relevant); RQs; defines key terms; describes subjectivity & researcher positionality (if relevant)		
Review of Literature	Provides comprehensive review of literature relevant to the study; well-organized with nuanced critique regarding relatedness of the research & scholarship reviewed; includes specific criteria for inclusion/exclusion of various theoretical perspectives/empirical studies; clearly synthesizes research findings		
Methods	Provides appropriate detail in description of research design, participants & sampling technique, ethical considerations, instrumentation & data sources, data collection procedures, data analysis, assumptions, & trustworthiness (if relevant); cites methods sources to justify research design		
Results or Findings	Reports all pertinent results/findings in clear & concise manner; provides contextual information for findings (if relevant); describes instrument validity & reliability (if relevant); labels tables/figures appropriately		
Conclusions & Recommendations	Provides comprehensive discussion interweaving results/findings, existing research, & theoretical framework (if relevant) to address the implications for various stakeholders; provides recommendations for various stakeholders; identifies limitations & offers suggestions for future research appropriately & clearly based on findings/results		
Writing Quality	Writes with clarity & precision; each sentence is understandable; word choice, grammar, punctuation, & spelling are excellent; narrative is logical & coherent; correct use of 7 <sup>th</sup> edition of APA		
General Comments			

**The University of Findlay  
College of Education  
Final Dissertation Defense**

<b>Decision of the Committee:</b>	
<b>Pass      Pass with Modifications      Revise &amp; Re-Defend</b>	
<b>Required Modifications:</b>	
<b>Modifications Due Date:</b>	
Dissertation Chair:	Signature:
Dissertation Committee Member:	Signature:
Dissertation Committee Member:	Signature:
Dissertation Committee Member:	Signature:
Doctoral Candidate:	Signature:

If modifications are required, dissertation Chair and committee members need to sign next page indicating that required modifications have been successfully met.

***We, the dissertation committee, verify that all required modifications to the dissertation have been completed to our satisfaction, that the dissertation is complete and in its final publishable form, and that all obligations associated with the dissertation have been fulfilled.***

Date Modifications Completed:

Dissertation Chair:	Signature:
Dissertation Committee Member:	Signature:
Dissertation Committee Member:	Signature:
Dissertation Committee Member:	Signature: