SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
Dissertation Defense Evaluation Quality Indicators

Name of Student: __________________________________________ Date: ____________________
Chairperson: ______________________________________________

I. Writing
Demonstrates independent thinking and action in the selection of a significant research topic and in carrying out research on that topic.
• Topic is stated clearly and relevant background literature reviewed and evaluated
• Dissertation manuscript is coherent, well structured, clearly written and in accordance with the specifications of APA (6th) style
• With appropriate revisions, the dissertation is of sufficient quality to be publishable in an academic or practice-oriented journal that is peer-reviewed.
• Research question(s) are stated clearly

____ Minimal (1 point) ____ (2 points) ____ Acceptable (3 points) ____ (4 points ) ____ Exemplary (5 points)

II. Research Design and Methods
Demonstrates proficiency in research methodology and the ability to defend the appropriateness to a research problem.
• Appropriate methodology to study the research question(s) posed, and explicitly described
• Design implemented effectively
• Research produced trustworthy evidence that bears on the research question(s)
• Demonstrates ability to research complex ideas objectively
• Communicates results knowledgably and articulately

____ Minimal (1 point) ____ (2 points) ____ Acceptable (3 points) ____ (4 points ) ____ Exemplary (5 points)

III. Critical Analysis and Discussion
Demonstrates mastery and critical analysis of theory, research, and application in their chosen field of study.
• Conclusions follow convincingly from the evidence and its interpretation
• Contributes to the knowledge base, informs practice, and provides data for making informed policy decisions
• Contribution and importance of the research questions with respect to relevant literature, theory, policy and/or practices are articulated in a convincing manner

____ Minimal (1 point) ____ (2 points) ____ Acceptable (3 points) ____ (4 points ) ____ Exemplary (5 points)

IV. Oral Defense
Able to articulate a research problem, discuss the pertinent literature, justify the selected methodology, explain the results, propose new areas for research
• Oral presentation is articulate
• Committee questions are answered cogently, logically, and scholarly by incorporating the literature as appropriate
• Interpretations and conclusions from the findings are delivered convincingly

____ Minimal (1 point) ____ (2 points) ____ Acceptable (3 points) ____ (4 points ) ____ Exemplary (5 points)

11/17/2009