

**Scoring Guide (Rubric) for Graduate Learning Outcome Assessment
MS DEFENSE EXAM* in Microbiology**

Candidate Name: _____ Date: _____

Title of Thesis: _____

Evaluation/Guidance	Does not meet Expectations	Meets Expectations	Exemplary Performance
1. Problem Definition and relationship to previous research in the literature: Stated the research problem, and its impact, clearly in the context of existing literature, providing motivation for undertaking the research			
2. Solution Plan: Has applied appropriate research methods/tools to solve the defined problem and has described the methods/tools effectively			
3. Results: Analyzed and interpreted research results/data effectively; responded to unforeseen technical problems or unexpected results appropriately.			
4. Quality of Written Communication: Communicated research results clearly and professionally in written form			
5. Quality of Oral Communication: Communicated research results clearly and professionally in oral form			
7. Critical Thinking: Has demonstrated capability for independent research in the area of study and expertise in the area			
6. Conclusion and Broader Impact: Summarized what new information/insight the thesis work produced. Demonstrated awareness of broader implications of the concluded research. Broader implications may include social, economic, technical, ethical, business, etc. aspects.			
8. Publications: Journal or conference publications have resulted (or are anticipated) from this research			
9. Requirement: Has completed at least one term as GTA	Number of terms as GTA:		

Overall Assessment: The assessment of the overall performance of the candidate based on the evidence provided in items 1 – 9 above.

CRITERIA	PERFORMANCE RATINGS for THESIS EXAM		
	<i>Does NOT PASS Exam</i>	<i>PASSES Exam</i>	
OVERALL, My rating of the Thesis indicates that it:	Does not meet expectations	Meets expectations	Exemplary performance

Name of the Examining Committee Member: _____

Signature of the Examining Committee Member: _____

Examiner: Please use the reverse side of this form for written commentary as needed.* Note that this form may be used for both THESIS and NON-THESIS MS Defense exams.