

**Masters of Science in Biology
Thesis Defense Evaluation**

Student Name:

Date of Defense:

Thesis Title:

A student pursuing an MS in Biology must defend the thesis research in a public forum. It is understood that prior to the public defense a written document of the completed thesis research would have already been approved by the thesis committee chair as well as members of the thesis committee. The time, date and location of the thesis defense must be announced to the public, and a copy of the written thesis must be made available in the office of the biology department, at least two weeks prior to the defense. After the defense, the thesis committee may recommend minor or major revisions before the written thesis is accepted. If revisions are required, an outline of the revisions needed and a timeline for completion must be provided in writing to the student by the thesis committee chair.

The defense takes the form of a 30-minute oral presentation by the student followed by a period of questions from the general audience. This is followed immediately by a session attended by only the student and members of the thesis committee, where more in-depth questions may be raised and specific issues discussed.

Members of the thesis committee will evaluate the performance of the oral defense based on the criteria given below, and will assign an overall grade of Satisfactory, Satisfactory with Revisions, or Unsatisfactory. Signatures of all members of the thesis committee on this form are required. A scanned copy of this form will be provided to the student and each committee member, and placed in the file of the student's official records.

1. Overall rationale and significance to the specific area as well as the general field.

2. Completeness of literature reviewed.

3. Experimental design.

4. Appropriateness and understanding of techniques and methods.

5. Data analysis and presentation of results (e.g., table and figures).

6. Conclusions and significance of the completed thesis.

Additional comments and recommended or required changes to the written thesis with deadlines:

Overall Grade: Satisfactory / Satisfactory with Revisions / Unsatisfactory (circle one)

Thesis Committee: (Printed name followed by signature and date on the same line for each member.)

Chair: _____

Member: _____

Member: _____

Member: _____