MS Thesis Student Assessment by Faculty

The following forms are to be completed as a hardcopy (provide original to the Graduate Coordinator) and on-line at: https://wcupa.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eEBklGTVSRCRwX3. Assessments I-III are completed as a group by the student's committee. Assessment IV is solely completed by the student's advisor.

I. Evaluation of <u>Oral Communication Skills</u> (BIO 610 Defense)

Student: _____

Faculty advisor: _____ Semester: _____

Committee members: _____

Thesis title:

Score distribution to use: Student performances in oral and written communication are rated from 1-10 (to the nearest 0.5). Scores DO NOT correlate to letter grades. Guidelines:

0-6.5: Reflects varying levels of poor performance. These scores should not be seen in an acceptable thesis or presentation. They are usually used in an advisor's evaluation of a first draft. Reasons for such scores would be poor quality references, many grammatical errors, misuse of statistical analyses, improper formatting, or low quality tables, graphs, or figures.

7-7.5: Indicates a minimally acceptable (fair) passing performance. For theses, this might be given for poor quality references, many grammatical errors, poorly aligned graphs, tables, or charts, or not following the style and format that are requested.

8-8.5: Indicates a good to very good performance, but not an excellent or superior one.

9-10: Indicates an excellent or superior performance. A rating of 10 indicates perfection, and should rarely if ever be used. A rating of 9.5 indicates that the student could submit the thesis to a prestigious journal, or give the oral presentation at a national meeting. A rating of 9.0 indicates that the student is above average for all students that the advisor/committee have seen.

1. <u>Organization</u>
Introduction sets up the thesis defense talk?
Logical sequence of ideas/information?
Smooth transitions between major points?
Summary of main points at the end?   Score: _____

2. <u>Content</u>
Shows good understanding of background material?
Able to explain data and answer questions?
Data are clear and easy to follow?
Full bibliography/credits?   Score: _____

3. <u>Delivery</u>
Made eye contact with the audience?
Audible? Acceptable pace?
Adherence to time limit?
Spoke, did not read or recite material?   Score: _____

4. <u>Overall</u>
On a scale of 1-10 (to the nearest 0.5), evaluate the overall performance of oral communication ability conveyed in the thesis defense.
                                                  Score: _____

II. Evaluation of <u>Writing Skills</u> (Thesis)

Thesis title:

1. <u>First draft</u>
Organization (logical sequence of ideas/information)
Style (clarity, syntax)
Grammar/spelling   Score: _____

2. <u>Final draft</u>
Organization (logical sequence of ideas/information)
Style (clarity, syntax)
Grammar/spelling   Score: _____

III. Evaluation of <u>Information Literacy</u> (Thesis)

Score distribution: Each of the components of overall information below is evaluated on a scale of 1-10 (to nearest 0.5) where:

1-6.5: Reflects varying levels of unsatisfactory performance

7-7.5: Reflects minimally acceptable (fair) performance

8-8.5: Reflects good to very good performance

9-10: Reflects excellent or superior performance

1. <u>Clarity of objectives</u>
Thesis objectives are clearly stated, and the content is consistent with the stated objectives.

                                                  Score: _____

2. Quantity and completeness of information sources
The range of sources, including an adequate proportion of primary literature, and completeness in terms of the topic.

Score: _____

3. Synthesis of information sources
The degree to which the information is synthesized and shaped to express the student's "voice" (avoiding an approach that, for example, simply strings together a sequence of sources).

Score: _____

4. Adequate and complete citation of information sources
Information presented with sufficient documentation to be able to locate the original source, both in the text of the thesis and in the references. Theses that exhibit documented instances of plagiarism and thus a clear violation of ethical standards are given a zero.

Score: _____

5. Overall: On a scale of 1-10 (to the nearest 0.5), evaluate the overall performance of information literacy skills based on the four components above.

Score: _____

Advisor and committee members signatures:_____

_____

_____

_____

IV. Evaluation of **Biological Knowledge and Technical Skills**

1. Biological Knowledge
To the extent possible, and with reference to their thesis project, rank the student's biological knowledge on a scale of 1-10 (to the nearest 0.5) determined at the *beginning* of the project. This is to be completed soley by the student's advisor.

Score: _____

To the extent possible, and with reference to their thesis project, rank the student's biological knowledge on a scale of 1-10 (to the nearest 0.5) determined at the *end* of the project.

Score: _____

2. <u>Technical Skills</u>
To the extent possible, and with reference to research conducted during the student's thesis project, rank the student on a scale of 1-10 (to the nearest 0.5) in terms of field, laboratory, and/or technical skills. This is to be completed soley by the student's advisor.

Score: _____

Advisor signature: _____