

The *CAAS Rubric for Dissertation and Oral Defense* is the artifact that is used to assess if students can produce, present and defend their thesis or dissertation by passing the **overall assessment criteria** in both the **Dissertation Document** section and the **Oral Defense** section.



Faculty Form – Rubric for Dissertation and Oral Defense

Please review the complete rubric for the PhD student dissertation and defense prior to reading the draft dissertation or attending the oral defense.

Student name	_____
Date	_____
Major advisor	_____
Committee member name	_____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Dissertation Document

Assessment criteria	Does not meet expectations	Meets expectations	Exceeds expectations
Quality of the Scholarly Work			
Mastery of fundamental knowledge in the field			
Ability to access and integrate information into a cohesive overview of current knowledge. Ability to critically evaluate the meaning, value and contribution of published literature in the field.			
Imagination and originality of thought			
Ability to design and implement an appropriate collection and analysis of data.			
Ability to draw reasoned conclusions from a body of knowledge			
Contribution to Discipline			
Impact of research on the field			
Publication potential			
Quality of Writing			
Skilled at scientific/technical writing			
Organization, sentence structure, grammar, mechanics and spelling			
Overall assessment			

Oral Defense

Assessment criteria	Does not meet expectations	Meets expectations	Exceeds expectations
Quality of Presentation			
Presentation design			
Content and organization			
Presenter skills			
Breadth and Depth of Knowledge			
Defends, clarifies, and expands upon written dissertation with further evidence and argument			
Demonstrates knowledge of dissertation subject, primary sources, and background scholarship; demonstrates ability to synthesize dissertation topic with broader topics in the discipline			
Quality of Responses to Questions			
Directly and correctly answers the examiner's questions			
Shows evidence of critical thinking and an awareness of the limits of his or her knowledge			
Overall assessment			