# Dissertation Defense Checklist

**Scientific Knowledge, Theoretical and Methodological Knowledge, Professionalism, and Ethical Standards**

**Human Development and Family Studies**  
**Texas Tech University**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student's Name</th>
<th>Year in Program</th>
<th>Semester/Year</th>
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| Project Title: | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| | |
| | |

*A marked NO on any of these items will result in not meeting expected level of competency for the Dissertation Defense*

**Project Scope**

- Student has identified an area of study that has relevance to human development and family studies and in which an original contribution can be made*
- Scope of student's research study is appropriate for a HDFS 8000-level project*
- Student level of independence in developing, carrying out, and overseeing all aspects of dissertation research project is appropriate*

**Literature Review**

- Student provides a concise, well organized, and integrated review of relevant literature in the Introduction section*
- Extended literature review is integrative, thorough, and well organized
- Student adequately evaluates existing literature
- Student addresses strengths and limitations of existing literature
- Student has made a clear argument for need to conduct research on topic

**Purpose of Study**

- The purpose of the study is clearly stated*
- Research questions are appropriate and clearly articulated*
- Hypotheses are appropriate and clearly articulated* (if applicable)
- Supporting literature is provided for hypotheses
- Student is able to clearly identify different types of variables* (independent, dependent, mediators, moderators)

**Research Design/Methods**

- Research design is appropriate to address hypotheses/research questions*
- Student demonstrates evidence that, when possible or relevant, s/he conducted a power analysis to estimate sample size
- Number of participants is appropriate for study
- Measures/Interview Questions included in study are appropriate for study (i.e., valid measures of target constructs)
- Description of measures/Description for Interview used in study is provided (e.g., dimensional/factorial structure; relevant forms of reliability, validity studies)

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Last Update: 9-21-16
### Data Collection
- Procedures are appropriate and clearly articulated [ ] [ ]
- Data collection in accordance with TTU’s IRB guidelines [ ] [ ]
- Data collection is in accordance with APA’s Ethical Principles and Code of Conduct [ ] [ ]

### Data Analysis
- Student identifies and provides rationale for statistical procedures/analytical techniques chosen to analyze data* [ ] [ ]
- Student describes statistical procedures/analytical strategy used to analyze data [ ] [ ]
- Procedures for handling missing data are described (when appropriate) [ ] [ ]
- Student clearly communicates findings* [ ] [ ]
- Student develops tables and figures to summarize and communicate results (if applicable) [ ] [ ]

### Communication of Findings
- Student clearly communicates general findings of study* [ ] [ ]
- Student places own research in context of existing research [ ] [ ]
- Student identifies limitations of study* [ ] [ ]

- Student adheres to guidelines set forth by the APA Publication Manual (6th edition) [ ] [ ]
- Document is well organized, written in a clear, concise, and grammatically correct manner* [ ] [ ]
- Student demonstrates mastery of relevant literature, research study, and is able to adequately answer questions in a thoughtful and scholarly manner [ ] [ ]
- Student conducted him/herself in a professional manner [ ] [ ]

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A minimum of 30 out of 34 (88%) categories need to be marked ‘Yes’ to have HDFS 8000 research project approved. Items designated with an * must be marked YES in order to meet expected level of competency.

[ ] Yes, student meets or exceeds expected level of competency for HDFS 8000 (Dissertation) research project

[ ] No, student does not meet expected level of competency for HDFS 8000 (Dissertation) research project

Comments:

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Student ___________________________ Date
Chair, Dissertation Committee ___________________________ Date

Committee Member ___________________________ Date
Committee Member ___________________________ Date

Committee Member ___________________________ Date