Dissertation Defense Checklist
Scientific Knowledge and Methods (Foundational Competency), Research/Evaluation (Functional Competency), Professionalism (Foundational Competency), and Ethical Legal Standards and Policy (Foundational Competency)

Clinical Psychology Program
Texas Tech University

Student’s Name ___________________________ Year in Program _________ Semester/Year __________
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 clinical psychology and in which an original contribution can be made* ___ ___

Scope of student’s research study is appropriate for a Psy 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* ___ ___

Student provides a more extensive review of research related to the project or some relevant part of the project in an Extended Literature Review* ___ ___

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* ___ ___

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* ___ ___

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 included in study are appropriate for study ___ ___
(i.e., valid measures of target constructs)

Description of measures used in study is provided ___ ___
(e.g., dimensional/factorial structure; relevant forms of reliability, validity studies)

Yes No

Last Update: 5-14-12
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 chosen to analyze data*

Student describes statistical procedures used to analyze data

Procedures for handling missing data are described (when appropriate)

Student states and tests most important assumptions of statistical tests

Student clearly communicates significant and non-significant findings*

Student develops tables and figures to summarize and communicate results

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 identifies clinical, training, methodological, and/or theoretical implications 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

A minimum of 33 out of 36 (92%) categories need to be marked ‘Yes’ to have Psy 8000 research project approved. Items designated with a * must be marked YES in order to meet expected level of competency.

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

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

Comments:

_____________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

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Comments:

_____________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

Student  Date  Research Advisor  Date

Committee Member  Date  Committee Member  Date

Committee Member  Date  Director of Clinical Training  Date

Last Update: 5-14-12