

**Dissertation Defense Checklist**  
 Scientific Knowledge, Theoretical and Methodological Knowledge, Professionalism, and Ethical Standards

**Human Development and Family Studies**  
 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**

	Yes	No
<b>Project Scope</b>		
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*	_____	_____
<b>Literature Review</b>		
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	_____	_____
<b>Purpose of Study</b>		
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)	_____	_____
<b>Research Design/Methods</b>		
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)	_____	_____

	Yes	No
<b>Data Collection</b>		
Procedures are appropriate and clearly articulated	_____	_____
Data collection in accordance with TTU's IRB guidelines*	_____	_____
Data collection is in accordance with <i>APA's Ethical Principles and Code of Conduct*</i>	_____	_____
<b>Data Analysis</b>		
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)	_____	_____
<b>Communication of Findings</b>		
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 <i>APA Publication Manual</i> (6 <sup>th</sup> 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 30 out of 34 (88%) categories need to be marked 'Yes' to have HDFS 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 HDFS 8000 (Dissertation) research project

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

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Date Chair, Dissertation Committee Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Member Date Committee Member Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Member Date