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
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)	_____	_____

	Yes	No
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	_____	_____

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		