

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

	Yes	No
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 dissertation-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 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, they 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)	_____	_____

