Thesis 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 NO on any of these items will result in not meeting expected level of competency for the Thesis 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 thesis-level project*	_____	_____
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 makes a clear argument for need to conduct research on proposed 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)	_____	_____
Student recognizes limitations of proposed thesis research project	_____	_____

	Yes	**No**
Data Collection		
Data collection procedures are in accordance with TTU's IRB guidelines*	_____	_____
Data collection procedures are in accordance with *APA's Ethical Principles and Code of Conduct* *	_____	_____
Data Analysis		
Student identifies, provides rationale, and adequately describes statistical procedures chosen to analyze data*	_____	_____
Student states and tests most important assumptions of statistical tests	_____	_____
Document		
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*	_____	_____
Communication of Findings		
Student clearly communicates general findings of study	_____	_____
Student clearly communicates significant and non-significant findings*	_____	_____
Student develops tables and figures to summarize and communicate results	_____	_____
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*	_____	_____
Professionalism		
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 27 out of 31 (87%) categories need to be marked 'Yes' to have the thesis proposal 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 the thesis proposal.

_____ No, student does not meet expected level of competency for the proposal.

Comments:
_____
_____
_____

_____   _____   _____   _____
Student   Date   Chair, Thesis Committee   Date

_____   _____   _____   _____
Thesis Committee Member   Date   Thesis Committee Member   Date

_____   _____
Director of Clinical Training   Date