Department of Microbiology and Cell Science

Rubric for Use in Dissertation Defense for the Ph.D. in Microbiology and Cell Science

Student Name: _______________________________  UF ID: _____________________________

Examination Date: ______________________________

Satisfactory  Needs Improvement  Unsatisfactory

Dissertation:

Abstract
Statement of purpose/question(s),
hypothesis and design, findings,
Importance/relevance.

Literature Review:
Comprehensive, current,
contextualized, analytic, thematic.

Concepts/Theory:
Logical, appropriate, aligned with
Questions, strengths/limitations.

Results/Analysis:
Alignment with questions, sophistication,
Clarity of presentation, interpretation
and insights, limitations.

Summary/Conclusions:
Refers back to introduction, ties
everything together, presents broader
perspective, implications, applications,
future directions.
Oral Defense of Dissertation:

Introduction:
Delineates key questions & hypotheses of the project

Background Information:
Demonstrates sound knowledge of the literature of the research area, appropriately selective.

Project Approach:
Describes use of methodology/technology in sufficient detail, understands & explains the basis & interpretations thereof.

Findings:
Results presented in logical order, Implications & limitations discussed.

Summary:
Findings are summarized in a clear and organized manner, integrated into model(s) as appropriate.

Context:
Student communicates the value of the research to the broader field (the molecular genetic, cellular, biochemical basis of life) and where appropriate to relevant applications

Response to Questions:
Addresses questions in direct and professional manner, demonstrates mastery of the project area.

Committee Chair: _______________________________ Signature: _______________________________
Committee Member: ____________________________ Signature: _______________________________
Committee Member: ____________________________ Signature: _______________________________
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