

**Department of Microbiology and Cell Science**

**M.S. Thesis Degree Program**

Rubric for Use in Thesis Defense for the M.S. in Microbiology and Cell Science

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

UF ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Examination Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Satisfactory

Needs Improvement

Unsatisfactory

**Thesis:**

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 Thesis:**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: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_