

Appendix 1

Rubric for Assessing Graduate Work in the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences

August 2011

Student's name: _____; Date: _____; MS or PhD: _____

Title: _____

Check one: Proposal seminar _____; Prelim exam: _____; Final Seminar _____; Defense _____

Check one: Faculty _____; Graduate student: _____; Staff: _____; Professional in the field: _____

For each of the learning outcomes below, please choose the score which best corresponds to the overall level demonstrated in the student work using the attached rubric for guidance. (6/5 = *Mastering*; 4/3 = *Developing*; 2/1 = *Minimal*; N/A = *Unable to rate*). Please use whole numbers or increments of 0.5.

Learning Outcome	Score
1. Knowledge of Field. Demonstrates adequate breadth and depth of knowledge of the field in their area of research.	
2. Scientific Reasoning. Appropriately designs, conducts, analyzes, and interprets research effectively on important problems in their discipline.	
a. Literature: Search, Selection, and Review. Reviews the literature in a manner that demonstrates comprehensive knowledge of previous and current research in the field of study.	
b. Defining the Problem. Identifies a viable question within the field of study and effectively documents the contribution of the research to the area of study.	
c. Methodology and Data Collection. Designs and implements appropriate research experiments to test the hypothesis or the solve problem.	
d. Data Analysis and Interpretation. Analyzes and interprets research data appropriately. Demonstrates sufficient knowledge of appropriate concepts, theories, and emerging methodologies in their area of research.	
e. Conclusions and Recommendations. Presents conclusions and recommendations that are accurate, clearly linked to data presented, and take into account all critical factors.	
3. Communication. Communicates effectively to a diverse group of people using appropriate traditional and emerging technological media.	
4. Original Contribution. Demonstrates potential for original contribution to their discipline.	

Comments: