

## APPENDIX E: GRADUATE LEARNER OUTCOMES: WRITTEN DISSERTATION DOCUMENT (FINAL DEFENSE)

Components	Outcome Quality Levels			
	Outstanding – 4	Very Good – 3	Acceptable – 2	Unacceptable - 1
<b>Introduction/Statement of the Problem</b>	Compelling, clear research question; Socially important, significant, innovative question; Places question in context	Interesting, sufficient breadth, depth, & insight; Poses a good question; Convincing rationale of significance	Provides some rationale; Explains importance &/or significance of question	Provides no rationale for the question; Question is poorly stated or omitted
<b>Grounding in the Literature</b>	Critical and comprehensive synthesis of relevant literature across disciplines	Provides a comprehensive critique and synthesis of behavior analytic literature	Comprehensive critique of behavior analytic literature	Incomplete or inadequate; Sources misinterpreted or poorly represented; Summary of the literature, but lacks critical analysis and synthesis
<b>Methodology</b>	Well-conceived; Methodologically sophisticated; Issues of verification (IOA & fidelity) addressed & quantified; Measures of social validity	Demonstrates technical competence with regards to design and methods; Issues of verification (IOA & fidelity) addressed	Demonstrates basic level of competence; Demonstrates ability to do research; Methodology informs the research question; Issues of verification (IOA) addressed to professional standards	Inappropriate or incorrect design or methods; Issues of verification (IOA) poorly addressed or omitted
<b>Results &amp; Analysis</b>	Exceeds the standard of thoroughness; Advanced use of visual or quantitative analysis; Provides supplemental analyses to better understand findings	Exceeds the standard of thoroughness	Meets the standard of thoroughness; Simple reporting of results; Evidence supports the argument; Analyses are linked to research question	Below the standard of thoroughness; Evidence does not support the argument; Results do not follow from the analysis and are interpreted incorrectly
<b>Discussion/Conclusion</b>	Identifies the significance and applications; Puts the study in larger context; Has implications for the subfield or behavioral science	Well synthesized; Conclusions are supported by the evidence; Addresses limitations; Conceptually systematic; Discusses issues of generalizability and external validity	Sufficient discussion of the results; Interpretation is simplistic	Insufficient discussion of the results; Misinterprets the findings; Shows lack of understanding and careful thought
<b>Presentation/Communication Skills</b>	Very well written; compelling & insightful; Sets up & articulates an interesting question/answer; Makes a persuasive, convincing case	Well written; Presents well-articulated, interesting, and important questions/answers	Provides a general discussion of the question or issues, but is insufficiently specific; Shows understanding of the topic; Writing lacks originality or creativity	Shows a fundamental lack of understanding of the problem; Poorly written, incomplete, lacks structure; Spelling and grammatical errors throughout