

CIS Program Policies & Procedures
Rev. June 2013

Appendix 1: Dissertation proposal and final defense assessment forms

Communication and Information Sciences Ph.D. Program
Dissertation proposal assessment
 (completed by each committee member; results averaged)

Criterion	Expected Performance	4: Exceeds 3: Meets 2: Approaches 1: Does not meet
Problem Statement	Articulates the importance of the study.	
Literature Review	Interdisciplinary, synthetic, analytical and critical. Comprehensive and up to date.	
Method	Evaluates appropriate and rigorous methods aligned with theory and research questions.	
Completion Plan	Realistic, detailed timetable, with appropriate milestones and checkpoints.	

Comments:

Communication and Information Sciences Ph.D. Program
Dissertation assessment
 (completed by each committee member; results averaged)

Criterion	Expected Performance	4: Exceeds 3: Meets 2: Approaches 1: Does not meet
Problem Statement	Articulates the importance of the study.	
Literature Review	Interdisciplinary, synthetic, analytical and critical. Comprehensive and up to date.	
Method	Critically applies appropriate and rigorous methods aligned with theory and research questions.	
Analysis	Addresses research questions appropriately. Yields publishable results. Iterative and reflective.	
Original Contribution	Expands the knowledge base of the field.	

Comments:

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Appendix 2: Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment Matrix

Student Learning Outcomes:

(SLO1) Demonstrate understanding of research methods and subject knowledge in the field of Communication and Information Sciences

(SLO2) Synthesize diverse data, theories, and methods

(SLO3) Demonstrate the ability to conduct research

(SLO4) Propose and conduct original research

(SLO5) Develop and articulate a professional identity as a contributing member of a research community

Assessed element	Exceeds standards	Meets standards	Approaches standards	Does not meet standards
Coursework (SLO1, SLO2)	<i>Overall GPA: 3.71-4.0</i> All pre-ABD coursework completed by end of 2nd year	<i>Overall GPA: 3.31-3.7</i> All pre-ABD coursework completed by end of 3rd year	<i>Overall GPA: 3.0-3.3</i> All pre-ABD coursework completed by end of 4th year	<i>Overall GPA: under 3.0</i> All pre-ABD coursework not completed by end of 4th year
Area exams (SLO1, SLO2, SLO3, SLO5)	<i>Individual exams: High pass or strong pass</i> <i>Overall: all exams passed by end of 2nd year</i>	<i>Individual exams: Pass</i> <i>Overall: all exams passed by end of 3rd year</i>	<i>Individual exams: Low pass or weak pass</i> <i>Overall: all exams passed in 4th year or later</i>	<i>Individual exams: Fail</i> <i>Overall: all exams not passed by end of 4th year</i>
Research publication (SLO3, SLO4, SLO5)	Published in selective (50% or lower acceptance rate) journal or conference by end of 2nd year	Published in refereed venue, or judged publishable, by end of 3rd year	Submitted to refereed venue and not published, but judged publishable, by end of 4th year	Not submitted, published in refereed venue or judged publishable by end of 4th year
Dissertation proposal (SLO3, SLO4, SLO5)	Average score on dissertation proposal assessment: 3.5 and above	Average score on dissertation proposal assessment: 2.75-3.49	Average score on dissertation proposal assessment: 2.0-2.74	Average score on dissertation proposal assessment: below 2.0
Dissertation proposal defense (SLO3, SLO4, SLO5)	Proposal defense passed unanimously, in 4 years or less	Proposal defense passed without unanimous agreement in 4 years or less	Proposal defense passed in more than 4 but less than 7 years	Proposal defense not passed in 7 or more years
Dissertation (SLO3, SLO4, SLO5)	Average score on dissertation assessment: 3.5 and above	Average score on dissertation assessment: 2.75-3.49	Average score on dissertation assessment: 2.0-2.74	Average score on dissertation assessment: below 2.0
Dissertation defense (SLO3, SLO4, SLO5)	Dissertation defense passed unanimously, in 5 years or less	Dissertation defense passed without unanimous agreement OR in more than 5 but less than 7 years	Dissertation defense passed in 7 or more years	Dissertation defense not passed in 7 or more years