

**CHECKLIST FOR FINAL DEFENSE OF DISSERTATION**  
**GSE DISSERTATION STANDARDS**

1. Is the topic stated clearly and relevant background literature reviewed and evaluated?

Yes: \_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Are research question(s) stated clearly?

Yes: \_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Is the contribution and importance of the research question(s) with respect to relevant literature, theory, policy, and/or practice articulated in a convincing manner?

Yes: \_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Are the research plan and methods appropriate and adequate to study the research question(s), and are they described explicitly?

Yes: \_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Was the research plan implemented effectively?

Yes: \_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Did the research produce trustworthy evidence that bears on the research question(s)?

Yes: \_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Do the conclusions follow convincingly from the evidence and its interpretation?

Yes: \_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Is the dissertation manuscript coherent, well structured, clearly written and in accordance with a standard style manual?

Yes: \_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. With appropriate revisions, was a dissertation produced that is of sufficient quality to be publishable in an academic or practice-oriented journal that is peer reviewed?

Yes: \_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signatures:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

(Approval of the dissertation requires a vote of “yes” for each of the nine standards by the Committee Chair, and by a majority of Committee members).

4/22/05