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| **Dissertation & Thesis Developmental Rubric** |
| **Criteria** | **Beginning (1)** | **Basic (2)** | **Proficient (3)** | **Mastery (4)** |
| **Significance of Topic** | Topic is of little importance or unrelated to field of study;Topic will not add to the body of literature in the field of study;Topic has little theoretical or practical importance to the field of study;Topic demonstrates no innovative thinking;Topic does not directly relate to planning, implementing, and evaluating a program. | Topic is of some importance and is related to field of study;Topic will somewhat add to the body of literature in the field of study;Topic has basic theoretical and practical importance to the field of study;Topic demonstrates some innovative thinking;Topic somewhat relates to planning, implanting, and evaluating a program. | Topic is important and related to field of study;Topic will moderately add to the body of literature in the field of study;Topic has moderate theoretical and practical importance to field of study;Topic demonstrates a moderate level of innovative thinking;Topic directly relates to planning, implementing, and evaluating a program. | Topic is of major importance and specifically related to the field of study;Topic has significant theoretical and practical importance to the field of study;Topic demonstrates a high level of innovative thinking;Topic directly relates to planning, implementing, and evaluating a program. |
| **Purpose** | Unclear and confusing;No conceptualization. | Somewhat understandable but needs clarity;Some level of conceptualization. | Clearly stated and appropriately worded;Moderately conceptualized. | Clearly stated and appropriately worded;Well conceptualized. |
| **Research Questions/Hypothesis** | Unrelated to purpose and poorly written;Significant revision needed. | Somewhat related to purpose and understandable;Significant revision needed. | Related purpose and understandable;Moderate revision needed. | Clearly related to purpose and understandable;Little or no revision needed. |
| **Review of Literature/ Theoretical Framework** | Incomplete or disorganized;Includes inappropriate number of non-referenced sources;Fails to establish an appropriate theoretical framework (including motivational theories) for the research topic;Fails to site appropriately;Not appropriate for publication or presentation. | Partially complete and somewhat disorganized;Includes few non-referenced sources;Establishes a basic theoretical framework (including motivational theories) for the research topic;Demonstrates a basic understanding of appropriate citation format, but requires significant revision;Is not appropriate for publication or presentation without significant revision. | Complete literature review with sound organization;Includes very few non-referenced sources and provides current research relevant to the field and the topic;Establishes a sound and proficient theoretical framework (including motivational theories) for the research topic;May be appropriate for publication or presentation with moderate revision. | Comprehensive literature review;Includes current and landmark literature highly relevant to the topic;Establishes an advanced theoretical framework (including motivational theories) for the research topic;Is appropriate for publication or presentation with little or no revision. |
| **Methodology** | Incomplete and little description of methods;Methods appear inappropriate or unrelated to purpose and research questions;Data analysis is incomplete and inappropriate;Not appropriate for publication or presentation. | Partial description of methods;Methods appear to be appropriate and related to purpose and research questions;Data analysis appears appropriate for the research but needs significant refinement;Is not appropriate for publication or presentation without significant revision. | Moderately well written and mostly complete description of methods;Methods appear sound, appropriate and related to purpose and research questions;Data analysis is appropriate for the research but needs some refinements;May be appropriate for publication or presentation with moderate revisions. | Well written, detailed description of methods;Methods are highly appropriate for this type of project and are directly linked to the purpose and research questions;Data analysis is highly appropriate for the research and needs little or no refinement;Is appropriate for publication or presentation with little or no revisions. |
| **Results & Discussion** | Inaccurately stated based on the data;No discussion to compare findings to previous research;No relationship to purpose and research questions/hypothesis;Fails to discuss key findings;Shows little or no critical analysis of research compared to current study;Is not appropriate for publication or presentation. | Accurately stated based on the data;Limited discussion with some comparison to previous research;Relates material to purpose and research questions/hypothesis;Some discussion of key findings and their implications;Shows some critical analysis of research compared to current study;Is not appropriate for publication without significant revision. | Accurately stated based on the data;Discussion relates findings to previous research on topic;Discussion relates key findings to previous research and presents their implications;Shows critical analysis of research related to topic and compared to current study;May be appropriate for publication or presentation.  | Accurately stated based on the data;Thoughtful, detailed and comprehensive discussion is presented;Key findings are specifically related to previous research;Implications are well presented;Shows creative thinking and thoughtful insight;Shows critical analysis of research related to topic and compared to current study;Is appropriate for publication or presentation with little or no revision. |
| **Format, Citations & References** | Project is disorganized or difficult to read;Project is not presented in format appropriate for intended scholarly venue;Presentation of material is inappropriate and unprofessional;Few appropriate citations are used;Citations and references are not presented in proper format and need significant revision. | Project is somewhat disorganized but in need of significant clarification;The majority of the project is not presented in appropriate for intended scholarly venue;Presentation of material is somewhat appropriate and professional;A moderate number of appropriate citations are used, but more may be needed;Citations and references are not presented in proper format and are in need of moderate revision. | Project is organized, but in need of major clarification in some areas;The majority of the project is presented in a format appropriate for intended scholarly venue;Presentation of material is appropriate and professional;A high number of appropriate citations are used, few, if any, additional sources may be needed;The majority of citations and references are presented in proper format and are in need of minor revision. | Project is well organized, needing only very little clarification, if any;The entire project is presented in a format appropriate for intended scholarly venue;Presentation of material is highly appropriate and professional;All citations are appropriate;Additional sources are not needed;All citations and references are presented in proper format and no not need revisions.  |
| **Overall Content/Project Evaluation (Readiness to submit for publication or professional presentation)** | Demonstrates lack of knowledge in field of study, the selected topic, and research design;Not appropriate for publication or presentation. | Demonstrates basic level of knowledge in field of study, the selected topic, and research design;Is not appropriate for publication or presentation without significant revision. | Demonstrates a proficient level of knowledge related to field of study, the selected topic, and research design;May be appropriate for publication with major revision. | Demonstrates a high level of mastery of knowledge related to field of study, the selected topic, and research design;Is appropriate for publication or presentation with little or no revision. |
| (Adapted from Texas A&M University: <http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/colleges/educationhumanservices/departments/healthhumanperformance/documents/Research%20Paper%20Grading%20Rubric3.pdf>) |