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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>) | | | | |