

Rubric for UCLA AOS Oral Examination

Advanced knowledge in research area (20% of grade)

Criteria for **exceeding expectations**: the student demonstrated the advanced knowledge of the fundamental principles, relevant literature, and broader context of their research area that is needed to be successful in their proposed research. Students are encouraged to discuss the required advanced knowledge with their advising committee prior to the exam.

Comments on whether student sufficiently demonstrated advanced knowledge in research area:				
Comments on whether student sufficiently demonstrated advanced knowledge of broader context of their research:				
Comments on any other aspects of student's advanced knowledge in research area:				
Overall grade for category (circle one):	4: Exceeds expectations	3.5: Meets expectations	3: Partially meets expectations	2: Does not meet expectations

Ability to articulate a compelling open science question (20% of grade)

Criteria for **exceeding expectations**: the student's research question or hypothesis is clearly articulated, is well-motivated by a clear scientific gap and/or relevance to a broader scientific problem, and has strong potential to result in a first-author publication for the student.

Comments on whether research question or hypothesis is clearly articulated:				
Comments on whether research question is well-motivated:				
Comments on whether research question has strong potential to result in a first-author publication for the student:				
Comments on any other aspects of student's ability to articulate an open science question:				
Overall grade for category (circle one):	4: Exceeds expectations	3.5: Meets expectations	3: Partially meets expectations	2: Does not meet expectations

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Ability to conduct research (40%)

Criteria for **exceeding expectations**: the student demonstrated their ability to successfully conduct the proposed research. This can be informed by various factors, including the student’s preliminary results; the presentation of a detailed methodology, especially in the case of unforeseen delays due to data collection/generation issues; comments from the student’s advisor or other committee members on, for example, the student’s technical capabilities (e.g., coding, experimental skills); their ability to follow through and complete assigned research tasks; and their initiative and independence.

Comments on student’s ability to follow through and complete assigned research tasks:				
Comments on methodology and the likelihood of it leading to a clear answer to the science question(s) of the proposed research:				
Comments on preliminary results – for instance the collection/generation and analysis of data and/or development of a model or instrument – and a clear articulation of how they inform the research question(s):				
Comments on the student’s initiative and independence:				
Comments on any other aspects of student’s ability to conduct research at a PhD level:				
Overall grade for category (circle one):	4: Exceeds expectations	3.5: Meets expectations	3: Partially meets expectations	2: Does not meet expectations

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Ability to present and defend original scientific ideas (20%)

Criteria for **exceeding expectations**: the student’s presentation was logical and effectively communicated the gap in research, the specific scientific question they will address, their research approach, preliminary results (if any), and the relevance of their investigation to the broader scientific context. The student was able to respond effectively to committee questions on their research project.

Comments on whether student’s presentation was logical and effective:				
Comments on whether student was able to respond effectively to committee questions on their research project:				
Comments on any other aspects of the student’s ability to present and defend original scientific ideas:				
Overall grade for category (circle one):	4: Exceeds expectations	3.5: Meets expectations	3: Partially meets expectations	2: Does not meet expectations

Any additional comments