

University of Wyoming
Department of Atmospheric Science
Ph.D. Dissertation Defense Assessment

Date of Defense :

Dissertation Title :

Committee member name:

1. Oral Defense

Criteria/ Guidance	Comments	Grade* (A-F)
1. Presentation performance: clarity of speech, coherence, quality of illustrations, ability to engage audience		
2. Research performance: does this defense represent, original research of scope and depth that is expected of a Ph.D. dissertation?		
3. Quality of responses to audience questions: Are the student's answers clear and thorough?		
4. Quality of responses to committee during thesis defense: Does the student demonstrate critical thinking skills, and a deep understanding of the material?		

*A – Excellent; C – Marginal Pass; F – Fail

2. Dissertation

Criteria	Comments	PASS/MINOR/ MAJOR/REJECT*
1. Introduction: states the research problem clearly, provides convincing motivation for undertaking the research		
2. Literature: is aware of relevant prior published work, and uses this effectively to frame the research		
3. Methods: discusses data sources and analysis techniques in sufficient depth/ detail		
4. Results: analyses data effectively, interprets findings clearly		
5. Illustrations: provides clear, publication-quality figures and tables		
6. Discussion: clearly communicates the implications and limitations of the findings; addresses broader impacts and steps that can be taken for further research		
7. Conclusions: provides clearly stated, succinct conclusions that are warranted by the findings		
8. Publications and conference presentations: # of lead-author oral/poster presentations, # of peer-review publications in review / accepted		

- * PASS: satisfactory
 MINOR: requires minor revision, assessed by advisor only (no need for committee to re-assess)
 MAJOR: requires major revision (significant improvements), must be re-assessed by committee.
 REJECT: must be rewritten