Thesis/Dissertation Defense Examination Assessment Rubric
Master of Science or Doctor of Philosophy in Horticulture

Candidate: _____ MS _____ PhD_____ Date: _____

Title of thesis: _____

Evaluator: _____

For each learning outcome below, choose the score, based on **whole number ratings from 5 to 1, with 5 = Mastery (excellent), 3 = Developing (competent), and 1 = Minimal (poor),** which best represents the overall level demonstrated by the student in their final thesis/dissertation and defense examination.

	Rating
1. Reviews the literature in a manner that demonstrates comprehensive knowledge of previous and current research in the field of study.	
2. Identifies a viable question within the field of study and poses a worthwhile hypothesis or problem related to the question.	
3. Discusses support for hypothesis or solution to problem in a manner that effectively documents the contribution of research to area of study.	
4. Designs and implements appropriate research experiments to test hypothesis or solve problem.	
5. Analyzes and interprets research data appropriately.	
6. Demonstrates sufficient knowledge of appropriate concepts, theories, and emerging methodologies in horticultural science.	
7. Demonstrates qualities of independent, self-motivated research with the ability to recognize problems in the field of study and formulate solution to those problems.	
8. Demonstrates the ability to effectively communicate at different levels results of research in written, graphic, and verbal modes.	

Comments: