

MPH Program Written Candidacy—MPH Research Project Report - Assessment Rubric

1. Identifies Appropriate Background / Command of Existing Literature

Unacceptable – Weak or inappropriate information related to problem/question is presented; lack of appropriate citations; incomplete survey of topic literature

Acceptable – Appropriate information related to problem / covers general scope of topic literature and includes appropriate citations

Excellent – Information presented is related to problem / review of literature displays expanded scope and relevance

Outstanding - Information presented displays expanded scope and relevance and is organized to enhance the research question presented for investigation

2. Clearly Defines and Defends Methodology

Unacceptable – Confused presentation of methodology and rationale for methods developed

Acceptable – Description of and rationale for methodology is generally clear but may contain flaws

Excellent – Description of and rationale for methodology reflects clear relationships of information supporting response

Outstanding –Description of and rationale for methodology is exceptionally clear in showing relationships of information supporting response including an indication of the relative importance of components of the evidence presented

3. Communicates and Explains Results Clearly and Effectively

Unacceptable – Description of results does not adequately explain or interpret tables and figures; figures/tables present data unclearly; some information presented in graphics significant to results may not be addressed in text; description does not “map” to graphics presented.

Acceptable – Description of results supported by tables and figures and adequately explained/interpreted; tables/figures present data clearly but may contain some minor flaws or inconsistencies in quality or uniformity

Excellent – Description of results clearly supported by tables and figures and easily followed by viewing graphics. Graphics and narrative description are consistently well developed and clearly define the scope of results; some minor inconsistencies may occur.

Outstanding – Description of results and accompanying tables/figures clearly cover the scope of the investigation and address any questions that the results may generate about methodology or outcomes. Narrative demonstrates grasp of methods and appropriate use of methodology in conducting analysis. Graphics are clearly marked, consistent, uniform, and each item is addressed in narrative.

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4. Discussion and Conclusion

Unacceptable – Weak or inappropriate information related to problem/question is presented; fails to fully summarize findings and synthesize appropriate information from investigation and existing literature to inform the conclusion; lack of appropriate citations; fails to include relevant literature in discussing results as they relate to the topic under investigation; fails to, or does not fully address, implications for discipline and future research

Acceptable – Succeeds in summarizing findings and making the anticipated main conclusions; generally uses appropriate information related to problem/question and synthesizes the majority of existing literature to explain conclusions and inform discussion; covers general scope of topic literature and includes appropriate citations; addresses implications for discipline and future research

Excellent – Succeeds in fully summarizing findings and in making anticipated main conclusions and addresses secondary conclusions in a logical manner, incorporating knowledge from relevant literature. Uses appropriate information related to problem/question and demonstrates command of literature on research topic. Generates logical conclusions and reasonable discussion that expand potential scope and relevance of research topic to discipline and future research

Outstanding – Succeeds in fully summarizing findings and in making all anticipated logical conclusions; addresses the relevance of results and importance for future research endeavors in an innovative fashion. Uses appropriate information related to problem/question and demonstrates superior command of literature on research topic. Conclusions and discussion demonstrate creativity innovative thought that expand potential scope and relevance of research topic to discipline and future research.

5. Uses Appropriate Grammar, Vocabulary and Style

Unacceptable –

Shows patterns of flaws in grammar, syntax and word choice that interferes with intended meaning or communication

Acceptable –

Demonstrates competent writing; may have occasional grammatical or syntax flaws. Flaws do not interfere with intended meaning or communication.

Excellent –

Displays command of grammar, selection of vocabulary and syntax; may have limited minor flaws

Outstanding –

Displays superior use of grammar, syntax and vocabulary to enhance meaning and communication