

## Dissertation Oral Defense Rubric

**Student:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Committee Chair:** \_\_\_\_\_

First Reader: \_\_\_\_\_

Second Reader: \_\_\_\_\_

### I. Learning Goals

- Students will demonstrate the ability to defend, clarify, and expand upon arguments made in the written dissertation.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to articulate their understanding of the nature of the discipline of historical theology.

### II. Instructions

- Listen to the oral defense.
- Using the rubric key, evaluate the defense and provide a total score.

**Rubric Key**  
 5 = Outstanding  
 4 = Very Good  
 3 = Acceptable  
 2 = Needs Work  
 1 = Unacceptable

### III. Rubric Indicator

Defends, clarifies, and expands upon written dissertation with further evidence and argument	
Directly and correctly answers the examiner's questions	
Demonstrates knowledge of dissertation subject, primary sources, and background scholarship	
Demonstrates ability to synthesize dissertation topic with broader topics in the discipline of theology	
Shows awareness of the limits of his or her knowledge	
Demonstrates an understanding of the nature of the discipline of historical theology	
Total Score	

**IV. Evaluation Score (Please List Number Score) \_\_\_\_\_**

### V. Evaluation Possibilities for the Defense

- Pass with distinction (a score of 27 or above)
- Pass (a score of 18 or above)
- Fail (a score of 17 or below, with option for one retake)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Faculty Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Faculty Signature