

DISSERTATION DEFENSE GUIDELINES

In general, material from the doctoral dissertation should be worthy of publication in a relevant peer reviewed journal. The student is expected to adequately defend the research conclusions and the methods by which those conclusions were reached. Successful defense of the dissertation will depend on:

Performance in final seminar:

The seminar should address the relevant background, research objectives and hypotheses that were tested. The findings should be presented in the context of the relevant health implications of their research.

Performance in oral defense

The student must be prepared to:

- defend methods, experimental design and conclusions derived from data in the context of their hypotheses
- demonstrate a proficiency in their topic, including but not limited to current literature which directly and indirectly relates to the topic
- discuss alternate approaches and potential pitfalls to their experimental design
- suggest future directions that could be taken to advance the knowledge acquired by their data