

Digital Arts and New Media Program (DANM)

THESIS ORAL DEFENSE FORM

By the last day of instruction of the third quarter of the second year, the completed thesis project and paper must be presented and submitted to the Thesis Committee in an oral defense. During the Oral Defense the Committee assesses whether the student successfully addressed the Critique Topics identified during the Studio Review for the MFA Exhibition, as well as their oral and written communication skills.

The signatures on this document confirm that the student has successfully completed and passed their Oral Defense. Committee members should sign this form as long as the Oral Defense was passed, even if the written thesis needs revisions. Please see page 3 for instructions on submitting the written thesis.

Student:

Signature

Date

Name

Thesis Project Title

This form is due by the last day of instruction in the third quarter of the second year.

Pages 3 and 4 of this form are completed by the Committee Chair and used to provide feedback for the student and assess DANM's Program Learning Outcomes, which are measured as part of the regular accreditation process at UCSC.

Committee Chair:

Signature

Date

Name

Department

Committee Member 1:

Signature

Date

Name

Department

Committee Member 2:

Signature

Date

Name

Department

Additional Committee Member (optional):

Signature

Date

Name

Department

DANM Program Director:

Signature

Date

Name

Department

CC: DANM Program Manager

Written Thesis Submission

Once the Oral Defense is passed, and the written thesis is deemed complete by the committee, the finalized copy of the written thesis is due to the Graduate Division by the last day of the third quarter in the second year. Please follow Graduate Division instructions (sent separately) for formatting and submission of the thesis digitally via ProQuest, and submitting a copy of the title page of their thesis with committee signatures to Graduate Division staff.

Currently the written thesis:

Is complete and accepted as final by the committee.

Needs further edits. The committee has set the date of _____ to receive a final version.

Committee members should sign this form as long as the Oral Defense was passed, even if the written thesis needs revisions. The committee's signatures on the title page of the student's written thesis as submitted to the Graduate Division indicates their final approval of the thesis.

One copy of this form may be completed by the chair.

Note how (and how successfully) the student addressed each topic:

Critique topics	Explain in 1-2 sentences how the student addressed each critique (what was and was not sufficiently addressed)	The extent to which the student addressed each topic
1.		Does not meet expectations Almost meets expectations Meets expectations Exceeds expectations
2.		Does not meet expectations Almost meets expectations Meets expectations Exceeds expectations
3.		Does not meet expectations Almost meets expectations Meets expectations Exceeds expectations
4.		Does not meet expectations Almost meets expectations Meets expectations Exceeds expectations
5.		Does not meet expectations Almost meets expectations Meets expectations Exceeds expectations
6.		Does not meet expectations Almost meets expectations Meets expectations Exceeds expectations

Assessment of student's professional communication skills during the Oral Defense

Criteria:	Three levels		
Student demonstrated skills to ...	Not Yet Competent	Competent	Sophisticated
1. Engage in a real-time discussion on their work in a critical and professional fashion	Struggles to respond in a meaningful way to criticism	Accepts and incorporates criticism	Transforms criticism into an expanded vision of or possibilities for their work
2. Link the work they did in the program to the wider aesthetic, political, spiritual, or cultural discourse(s)	Shows insufficient awareness of wider relevant discourse(s)	Clearly articulates proper connections	Contributes to moving the discourse forward
3. Speak effectively about their work	Struggles to articulate basic critical observations of their own work	Clearly articulates the meaning and importance of their work	Speaks about their own work in ways that enrich its appreciation and understanding by the committee

Comments

See next page for the written communication criteria

Assessment of written communication skills demonstrated in the paper

Criteria/Levels	Not Yet Competent	Competent	Sophisticated	Masterful
Theoretical Groundwork	Does not indicate the author understands the theories used	Demonstrates a reasonable grasp of theories used	Demonstrates a <i>critical</i> understanding of theories used	Adds something new to general understandings of the theories used
Use of Evidence	Evidence is weak, does not support theory, or is not properly analyzed.	Uses good but unoriginal evidence, makes correct but basic or well-known conclusions.	Judicious selection of evidence, critical use of evidence, deep analysis.	Uncovers something unknown or unexamined by the general scholarship on the subject.
Citations	Excessive quoting or many instances of missing citations. May not follow one citation style.	Occasional awkward use of paraphrasing and quotation. Some citations are murky or sporadically incorrect. Follows a specific citation style.	Correct choices of paraphrasing and quotation to produce coherent analysis. All evidence and ideas are properly cited.	Effective choices of paraphrasing and quotation. All evidence and ideas are properly cited; citations follow a specific style.
Organization	Argument is poorly constructed or difficult to follow	Well-organized paper with minor deficiencies in logical flow or clarity of the argument; shows step-by-step analysis.	Throughout the paper: logical flow, step-by-step analysis, clear, coherent argumentation.	Argument appears to flow “naturally” or “organically”. Clear, powerful argumentation.
Clarity and Style	Systematic grammar or spelling errors; the reader can understand the main ideas but must stop for clarification.	Occasional grammatical and/or spelling errors; may lack grace or fluidity in writing	Excellent grammar, spelling; communicates all ideas clearly with a minimum of jargon	Writing particularly elegant, funny, or otherwise aesthetically pleasing (without compromising argument). Excellent grammar and spelling.

Comments