Department of
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
Clemson® University

Rubric for Assessing Student Learning Outcomes
Environmental Toxicology – PhD
Dissertation and Defense

Student Name:
Defense Date:
Advisor Name:

SLO 2: Application of scientific methods in Environmental Toxicology as evidenced by the written dissertation:

States the research problem clearly, providing motivation for undertaking the research	
Demonstrates sound knowledge of literature in the area, and of prior work on the specific research problem	
Shows a good understanding of how to use methods/tools effectively	
Defends use of particular methods/tools clearly and logically	
Shows ability to propose future research questions	

SLO 3: Effective oral communication of research in Environmental Toxicology as evidenced by the dissertation defense:

Presents sufficient background information to justify the project	
Clearly presents the hypotheses tested	
Clearly presents the experimental design and statistical/analytical tools used	
Uses slides effectively to convey content	
Provides an overall clearly conceived and designed PhD dissertation	

SLO 4: Effective written communication of research in Environmental Toxicology as evidenced by the written dissertation:

States the research problem clearly, providing motivation for the research	
Synthesizes peer-reviewed literature appropriate for research topic	
Clearly describes appropriate scientific and statistical methods/tools	
Presents results clearly and succinctly	
Uses appropriate graphics	
Comes to conclusions that are supported by the results	

Please return form to biolgrad@clemson.edu.