**Rubric for the Independent Research Skills.**

The learning goals: Student will show to have become an independent and knowledgeable researcher in his/her topic of research. (To be assessed at the Dissertation defense)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>1. poor</th>
<th>2. developed</th>
<th>3. proficient</th>
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</table>
| **Student demonstrates the overall quality of the research** | Arguments are incorrect, incoherent, or flawed  
Objectives are poorly defined  
Demonstrates rudimentary critical thinking skills  
Reflects poor understanding of subject matter and associated literature  
Demonstrates poor understanding of theoretical concepts  
Demonstrates limited originality  
Displays limited creativity and insight | Arguments are coherent and clear  
Objectives are clear  
Demonstrates average critical thinking skills  
Reflects understanding of subject matter and associated literature  
Demonstrates understanding of theoretical concepts  
Demonstrates originality  
Displays creativity and insight | Arguments are superior  
Objectives are well defined  
Exhibits mature, critical thinking skills  
Reflects mastery of subject matter and associated literature.  
Demonstrates mastery of theoretical concepts  
Demonstrates exceptional originality  
Displays exceptional creativity and insight |
| **Student demonstrates his/her contribution to the discipline.** | Limited evidence of discovery  
Incremental contribution to previous research  
Limited theoretical or applied significance  
No publication record | Evidence of new discoveries  
Builds upon previous research  
Reasonable theoretical or applied significance  
Reasonable publication record (for the discipline) | Exceptional evidence of new discoveries  
Greatly extends previous research  
Exceptional theoretical or applied significance  
Exceptional publication record (for the discipline) |
| **Student demonstrates independence in carrying out the research project** | Did not show a proper research schedule (showing in the laboratory on time, etc.)  
Needed to be micromanaged  
Little evidence of significant contribution to the project  
Lack of expertise on the topic | Show a proper research schedule (showing in the laboratory on time, etc.)  
Managed the project with the regular supervision required by the advisor  
Evidence of significant contribution to the project  
Good expertise on the topic | Goes above and beyond what the expected schedule is.  
Managed the project with minimal  
Evidence of exceptional contribution to the project  
Mastery of the research topic |