



## CE/T Evaluation Criteria

*The CE/T defense is a celebration of learning that is open to the public and will last approximately one hour. To begin, the scholar will provide a 25 to 35-minute overview of their work. Then, the scholar will field questions from their committee, as well as any audience members. Following questions, the committee will ask the audience and scholar to leave the room while the committee deliberates. Only the scholar will be invited back once deliberations are finished to discuss the committee's evaluation of the defense.*

A CE/T is evaluated in two ways: first, a letter grade and second, a defense designation. The members of the CE/T committee determine both after the project's defense. The CE/T committee members (specifically, the chair/project advisor and second reader) provide a grade based on equivalent independent work within their discipline. A second evaluation is done based upon Mahurin Honors College (MHC) criteria. The evaluations are *Pass with Distinction*, *Pass with Honors*, *Pass*, and *Fail*. There is not necessarily a direct correlation between letter grade and the defense designation. For example, the vast majority of CE/T projects earning "A" grades will not be awarded the *Pass with Distinction* designation. However, all projects earning the *Pass with Distinction* designation must also earn "A" grades. The committee may decide to withhold passing the CE/T until necessary revisions are made. In such cases, a time limit should be set for completion of the revisions.

The committee's evaluation must consider the scholar's performance in the following areas:

1. Scholarly/Intellectual/Creative Merit;
2. Quality and style of writing and/or any additional work presented (as appropriate to discipline);
3. Quality of the oral defense/presentation; and
4. Adherence to guidelines for written CE/Ts set forth by The MHC.

### **Pass with Distinction**

This designation represents a CE/T that is comparable to competent **graduate** work at the M.A., M.S. or M.F.A. level. To earn this designation, all three committee members must have selected “*Pass with Distinction*” on their respective ballots that are to be submitted to the MHC. The project may include some of the following characteristics as appropriate for the discipline and type of CE/T:

- The scholar’s workload (research & resulting CE/T) is equivalent to *at least 270\** hours.  
*\*for Honors in the Major scholars, at least 135 hours*
- The CE/T is publishable, in part or whole (depending on the traditions of the disciplinary press), or deemed competitive in juried forums appropriate to field.
- For projects that require volunteers for assembly/production, all necessary planning for the CE/T was completed by the scholar.
- The scholar produced original work that contributes to the discipline and/or a specific Community, identifies a new direction for investigation and/or integrates primary data/sources, as appropriate to the discipline and project.

**COMMITTEE VOTING RULES: 3 votes to *Pass with Distinction* (Pass-D).**

### **Pass with Honors**

This designation should be awarded to scholars whose CE/T work represents **high quality undergraduate** work but does not rise to M.S., M.A. or M.F.A.-level work. To be awarded *Pass with Honors*, a minimum of two committee members must vote to *Pass with Honors* or *Pass with Distinction*.

**COMMITTEE VOTING RULES: Minimum of 2 votes to *Pass with Honors* or above.\***

### **Pass**

This designation should be awarded to scholars whose CE/T work represents academic growth through the CE/T process and meets at least minimum expectations to be worthy of recognition as an MHC graduate. To receive *Pass*, two of the committee members must vote for *Pass* or higher.

**COMMITTEE VOTING RULES: Minimum of 2 votes for *Pass* or above.**

### **Fail**

This designation is *unacceptable* in most or all areas. Very few CE/Ts fail because CE/T committee members should discourage scholars from standing for a defense if they are not fully prepared and the committee members have not read and approved of the CE/T, at least conditionally. All three committee members must vote to fail the project for this to be the final distinction.

\*If 2 votes to *Pass with Honors* or above is accompanied by a vote to Fail, the distinction of *Pass* will be awarded.



