

Grad Students Milestones and Deadlines

Deadlines for December 2025 Conferral:

November 28th - Last day to submit thesis and dissertation final copies to [Submittable](#) and related paperwork to Degree Audit in the Office of the Registrar for conferral of a December 2025 degree. *It is recommended that students defend at least two weeks prior to this deadline to allow for revisions.* Defense must be announced two weeks prior to defending.

Deadlines for May 2026 Conferral:

April 24th - Last day to submit thesis and dissertation final copies to [Submittable](#) and related paperwork to Degree Audit in the Office of the Registrar for conferral of a May 2026 degree. *It is recommended that students defend at least two weeks prior to this deadline to allow for revisions.* Defense must be announced two weeks prior to defending.

Apply to graduate by the fourth week of your final semester for each degree you are completing (*or the spring semester for summer graduates*). <https://kb.uconn.edu/space/SAS/10769929332> **The Registrar has created an excellent resource, Steps to a Successful Graduation: [Steps to a Successful Graduation | Office of the Registrar \(uconn.edu\)](#).**

Required for Graduation:

General Exam – Oral examination: short (~30 minutes) oral presentation on a research topic chosen in consultation between the student and their advisory committee, followed by an oral exam probing the student’s physics knowledge underlying their presentation. *Students must satisfy the core coursework requirement before taking the PhD General Examination.* The general exam committee consists of the student’s three-person advisory committee, plus two other faculty from a different research field. The General Examination should be completed before the end of the student’s fifth semester.

Plan of Study – submit after oral General Exam. [Plan of Study for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy \(uconn.edu\)](#)

Dissertation Proposal and its Review – Instructions and coversheet here: [Dissertation Proposal for the Doctoral Degree \(uconn.edu\)](#) Proposal to be written per Graduate School rules and approved by student’s Advisory Committee, including an oral defense of the proposal before a committee composed of their Advisory Committee and two other Faculty examiners. All PhD students should complete their dissertation proposal by the end of their 3rd year.

MS on the way to PhD

Students receive an MS on the way to their PhD when three things are completed:

1. Pass the General Exam
 2. Complete 30 credits of content coursework (PHYS courses, not GRAD)
 3. Have a fully approved plan of study
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Defending Your Dissertation:

Information regarding preparing for your defense can be found at <https://registrar.uconn.edu/doctoral-degree-programs/dissertation-information/>

Your defense committee requires five members: your advisory committee plus two additional faculty. Begin coordinating date/time/faculty members as soon as possible.

Two weeks prior to your defense date there are two things you need to do for the Graduate School:

1. Announce your oral defense in the **University Events Calendar** at least two weeks before the date of your defense.
2. Email the working copy of your dissertation to your Advisory Committee member at least two weeks prior to the date of the oral defense.

One week prior to your defense date there are two things you need to do for the Physics Department:

1. Email your committee and remind them about your defense date and time (*if you don't... they might not show up*).
 2. Email your abstract, the date, time and location of your defense to Adam Kolano adam.kolano@uconn.edu AND kaitlin.gorman@uconn.edu and ask them to send out your defense announcement to the department via the email distribution list.
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After the Defense:

1. Submit your [Approval Page](#)
 2. Complete the [Survey of Earned Doctorates](#)
 3. Submit ONE electronic copy of your dissertation to [Submittable](#). Follow the instructions found in the [Submittable help file.pdf](#).
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Commencement:

For information regarding Commencement <http://www.commencement.uconn.edu/>

RETURN ALL KEYS!

