

# GRADUATE STUDENT TIMELINE

## PHD STUDENTS

All coursework should be completed by the end of the third year. Aside from coursework, there are 3 major defense milestones:

1. Master's defense
  - Must be completed by the end of the spring semester\* of the third year.
  - The master's thesis must be circulated to the department at least 2 weeks prior to the defense date.
  - Students who defend by the end of the fall semester\* in their third year will receive an "early incentive" bonus of 1 additional semester free from teaching.
2. Prospectus defense
  - Must be completed by the end of the spring semester\* of the fourth year.
  - The prospectus must be circulated to the department at least 2 weeks prior to the defense date.
  - Students who defend by the end of the fall semester\* in their fourth year will receive an "early incentive" bonus of 1 summer of financial support.
3. Dissertation defense
  - Must be completed by the end of the fifth year.
  - Summer defenses require DGS approval (and typically a visa extension, if applicable).
  - The dissertation must be circulated to the department at least 2 weeks prior to the defense date.

## MASTER'S STUDENTS

All coursework must be completed by the end of the second year. If pursuing the thesis-based option, permission must be secured by the end of the fall semester\* of the second year, though it is strongly encouraged to do so earlier. Note that this requires an advisor.

Master's defense (thesis-based option only)

- Must be completed by the end of the second year.
- Summer defenses require DGS approval (and typically a visa extension, if applicable).
- The thesis must be circulated to the department at least 2 weeks prior to the defense date.

\* The "end of a semester" is the last day of the examination period for that semester, which is typically about 1 week after the last day of classes.