

# GUIDE TO GRADUATING

## Ph.D. in Chemical Physics

*This is a summary of the deadlines and procedures. For detailed deadlines and policies, please refer to the Graduate School's [Academic Deadlines](#) and [Doctor of Philosophy Degree Policies](#).*

### 1. CHECK THE REQUIREMENTS

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Ensure that you have met all the requirements to earn a Ph.D. in Chemical Physics [here](#).

### 2. REGISTER FOR THE SUMMER

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**MAY 29, 2026**

If you complete any degree requirements (e.g., defense or submission of the dissertation) during the Summer (June 1 – August 21) you will need to be registered for one of the Summer sessions. Students typically just register for BIPH899, but a new section may need to be created for your advisor. Please notify the Coordinator **at least 2 weeks before the deadline** to ensure enough time to process this.

### 3. NOMINATE YOUR COMMITTEE

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**JUNE 15, 2026**

Submit the [Nomination of Dissertation Committee Form](#) to the Graduate Coordinator by **JUNE 15, 2026** and **at least six weeks before the expected date of the defense**.

If you are unsure of the exact date of your defense when completing this form, fill in the earliest possible date that your defense could take place. When you determine the final date, inform the Graduate Coordinator to update the Registrar. The Registrar needs the exact date to generate the Report of Examining Committee prior to the defense.

### 4. APPLY FOR GRADUATION

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**JULY 16, 2026**

Submit the [Application for Graduation](#) by **JULY 16, 2026**.

Applications automatically “roll over” to the next semester if you do not graduate.

### 5. PREPARE TO DEFEND

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#### RESERVE A ROOM

As soon as your committee is approved by the Registrar, reserve a room for your defense.

- Rooms in the PSC can be reserved [here](#)
- The IPST Seminar Room (1116 IPST) can be reserved via Stacey Bremerman ([sbremerm@umd.edu](mailto:sbremerm@umd.edu))

#### NOTICE OF DOCTORAL DEFENSE

**At least two weeks prior to your defense date**, [submit this form](#) with information about your defense.

This information is used to complete the Notice of Doctoral Defense, which is required to be distributed to students and faculty prior to the defense.

## DEADLINES FOR SUMMER 2026

### DISSERTATION DEFENSE FORMS

After the Notice of Doctoral Defense is sent, the Graduate Coordinator will send the Committee Chair an email with the following:

- A link to a folder containing your departmental records
- The [Interim Report of Examining Committee](#) form

This form should be returned to the Graduate Coordinator immediately following the defense.

The Registrar will send the Report of Examining Committee (REC) to the committee via Adobe Sign 2-3 business days before the defense.

## 6. DEFEND YOUR DISSERTATION ~ JULY 16, 2026

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**You should plan to defend at least two weeks before the dissertation submission deadline to allow time for revisions.**

Familiarize yourself with the procedures for the [oral dissertation examination](#) (“defense”).

The REC must be signed by **all committee members** and the **program director** by **JULY 31, 2026**.

## 7. REVISE & SUBMIT YOUR DISSERTATION JULY 31, 2026

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Most students need to revise the dissertation before submission.

The deadline to submit the **final copy** of the dissertation is **JULY 31, 2026**.

Instructions for formatting and submitting your dissertation can be found [here](#).

## 8. COMPLETE EXIT SURVEYS

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The Graduate School requires that you complete two surveys:

- [UMD Doctoral Experience Survey](#)
- [NSF Survey of Earned Doctorates](#)

Complete the [IPST Graduate Student Exit Survey](#).

It is particularly important that you include an up-to-date email address that you will check regularly in case we have important communications regarding your clearance, diploma, or financial accounts.

## 9. SETTLE STUDENT ACCOUNT

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Settle balances on your [student account](#). Your diploma will be withheld until your balance is paid.

## COMMENCEMENT INFORMATION

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There is no summer commencement ceremony, but CMNS typically holds a **Celebration of Graduates in early December** for students who have graduated in the Summer and Fall semesters. An invitation will automatically be sent to you from the Dean of CMNS in November.