

GUIDE TO GRADUATING

Ph.D. in Biophysics

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

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

2. APPLY FOR GRADUATION

SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

Submit the [Application for Graduation](#) by **SEPTEMBER 14, 2026**.

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

3. NOMINATE YOUR COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 28, 2026

Submit the [Nomination of Dissertation Committee Form](#) to the Graduate Coordinator by **SEPTEMBER 28, 2026** and **at least six weeks before the expected date of the defense**.

If you are unsure of the exact date 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. PREPARE TO DEFEND

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)

SEND DISSERTATION TO YOUR COMMITTEE

All members of your committee must receive the dissertation **at least ten working days** before your scheduled defense.

Working days include weekdays (Monday through Friday) that are not designated as Federal, State, or University holidays. The committee *can* require submission of the dissertation earlier than this.

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.

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.

DEADLINES FOR FALL 2026

5. DEFEND YOUR DISSERTATION

~ OCTOBER 30, 2026

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 directors** by **NOVEMBER 13, 2026**.

6. REVISE & SUBMIT YOUR DISSERTATION

NOVEMBER 13, 2026

Most students need to revise the dissertation before submission.

The deadline to submit the final copy of the dissertation is **NOVEMBER 13, 2026**.

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

7. COMPLETE EXIT SURVEYS

The Graduate School requires that you complete the [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.

8. SETTLE STUDENT ACCOUNT

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

COMMENCEMENT INFORMATION

There is no Fall 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.

SPRING 2027 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

You are also welcome to participate in the Spring 2027 commencement ceremonies:

- [Main Commencement Ceremony](#)
- [CMNS Graduate Student Commencement Ceremony](#)

If you do participate in either of the Spring 2027 ceremonies, you will need to wear proper regalia. [Purchase or rent regalia](#) from the University Book Center.

DIPLOMA

Diplomas will be mailed several weeks after graduation. If you need to update your diploma mailing address, please contact Diploma Services at diploma@umd.edu.