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 9, 2024**

   Submit the [Application for Graduation](#) by **SEPTEMBER 9, 2024**.

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

3. **NOMINATE YOUR COMMITTEE**

   **SEPTEMBER 23, 2024**

   Submit the [Nomination of Dissertation Committee Form](#) to the Graduate Coordinator by **SEPTEMBER 23, 2024** 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)

   **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.
5. **DEFEND YOUR DISSERTATION**  
   ~ OCTOBER 25, 2024
   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 8, 2024.

6. **REVISE & SUBMIT YOUR DISSERTATION**  
   NOVEMBER 8, 2024
   Most students need to revise the dissertation before submission.
   The deadline to submit the final copy of the dissertation is NOVEMBER 8, 2024.
   Instructions for formatting and submitting your dissertation can be found here.

7. **COMPLETE EXIT SURVEYS**
   
   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.

8. **SETTLE STUDENT ACCOUNT**
   
   Settle balances on your student account. Your diploma will be withheld until your balance is paid.

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**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 2025 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES**

You are also welcome to participate in the Spring 2025 commencement ceremonies:
   - Main Commencement Ceremony
   - CMNS Graduate Student Commencement Ceremony

If you do participate in either of the Spring 2025 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.