Complete new student orientation / MCW graduate school “Boot Camp”
- Boot Camp is held in the early part of August
- Yearly orientation for BME students is typically the first Graduate Seminar Series of the year

Register for Graduate Seminar Series every semester

By end of Year 1: submit completed and signed Doctoral Program Planning Form

Identify Dissertation Committee

Submit Dissertation Committee Approval Form
- The Dissertation Committee Approval Form (and all forms) must be approved by the student’s Dissertation Director, the BME DGS/Co-DGS, the BME Department Chairperson, and the Dean of MCW Graduate School before the student can take the DQE

By end of Year 2, be well into preparing for Doctoral Qualifying Exam (DQE)

Submit Dissertation Proposal to Dissertation Committee
- The Dissertation Committee Proposal is in the style of an NIH F31 grant and is the written portion of the DQE
- Proposal must be submitted at least 2 weeks prior to the Oral Examination

Complete Oral Examination portion of Doctoral Qualifying Exam

Submit signed Qualifying Examination Report Form

Submit Dissertation Outline Approval Form

Present research to committee once annually until defense
- Minimum of 12-18 months between passing DQE and dissertation defense
- Annual summary of research to be submitted commencing the spring semester after passing the DQE

If Dissertation Committee members are added or committed, a Committee Change Approval Form must be submitted

Prepare for Defense: Submit copy of Dissertation
- Must be submitted to the graduate school at least (30) days prior to defense

Prepare for Defense: Secure date/time and location of Defense
- Students will work with the MCW graduate school to confirm all public defense logistics

Timeline: All work for doctoral degrees, including the final examination, must be completed within 7 years from the initial registration in graduate courses

Submit Application for Graduation Program Approval Form

Submit Signature Page

Submit Oral Defense Completion & Degree Recommendation Form

Submit Dissertation Binding Form
- (2) copies will be printed: one for the candidate, and one for the department’s records