

YEARS
0 - 1

- 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

YEARS
1 - 2

- 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 \(DQE\)](#)


YEARS
2 - 3

- 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](#)

YEARS
3 - 4+

- 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

DEFENSE

-  **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 [Oral Defense Completion & Degree Recommendation Form](#)