

Progress Toward PhD Degree: Degree Requirements and Timeline

Degree Requirements

Credits:	Complete 90 credit hours beyond the bachelor's degree (student may petition up to 30 credits from MS degree be transferred into the PhD program).
Credits:	Complete 1 credit hour of SWS 6931 (Seminar).
Credits:	Complete 1 credit hour of SWS 6940 (as teaching assistant in any SWS course).
Credits:	Complete 1 additional credit hour of SWS 6940 (Supervised Teaching) or 1 credit hour of SWS 6910 that culminates in an extension/service product.
Credits:	Complete SWS 5050 (unless at least a senior-level undergraduate course in introductory soil science was completed).
GPA:	Overall and major GPA must be at least 3.0.
	Fulfill UF residency requirements (beyond the first 30 credits, students must complete 30 credits enrolled at the UF campus or at an approved REC).
Date:	Successfully pass Qualifying Exam.
Date:	Present Exit Seminar.
Date:	Successfully pass Final Exam/Dissertation Defense.
Date:	Electronically submit approved dissertation (ETD).

Timeline

First Semester

<input type="checkbox"/> Date:	Complete graduate student orientation.
Credits:	Register for courses, starting with foundation courses (e.g., SWS 5050 and 5000 level courses first).
Date:	Discuss ideas for research with Major Advisor.
Date:	Develop research proposal under supervision of Major Advisor.
Date:	Develop draft Plan of Study with recommendations by Major Advisor.
Date:	Take initial steps to form Supervisory Committee.
Date:	Complete initial IDP self-assessment.

Second Semester

Credits:	Continue coursework and research.
Date:	Form Supervisory Committee.
Date:	Share Proposed Plan of Study with Supervisory Committee and modify according to committee recommendations.
Date:	Submit approved Proposed Plan of Study form (signed by student and committee members) to Student Services by end of second semester.
Date:	Continue to develop research proposal.
Date:	At end of first year, complete IDP self-assessment and meet with Major Advisor to discuss IDP and progress. Create IDP action plan and submit last page of IDP form by the end of the second semester.

Second Year

Credits:	Continue coursework and research. Before the Qualifying Exam is passed, students should register for SWS 7979 (Advanced Research) for research credits.
Date:	Finalize research proposal and present it to Supervisory Committee.
Date:	Meet with Supervisory Committee at least once to provide update on progress of research and discuss research questions. Refine research based on suggestions.
Date:	At end of second year, complete IDP self-assessment and meet with Major Advisor to discuss IDP and progress. Create IDP action plan and submit last page of IDP form by the end of the summer semester.

Third Year

Credits:	Continue coursework and research. Before the Qualifying Exam is passed, students should register for SWS 7979 (Advanced Research) for research credits.
Date:	Meet with Supervisory Committee at least once to provide update on progress of research and discuss research questions. Refine research based on suggestions.
Date:	Complete Qualifying Exam. (The exam is commonly taken after major course work has been completed. It may be taken as early as the 3rd semester beyond the master's degree and must be completed at least 2 terms before graduation.)
Date:	At end of third year, complete IDP self-assessment and meet with Major Advisor to discuss IDP and progress. Create IDP action plan and submit last page of IDP form by the end of the summer semester.

Fourth and Fifth Years as Applicable

Credits:	Continue coursework and research. After the qualifying exam is passed, students should register for SWS 7980 (Doctoral Research) for research credits.
Date:	Meet with Supervisory Committee at least once per year to provide update on progress of research and discuss research questions. Refine research based on suggestions.
Date:	Start writing manuscripts as soon as research evolves and submit for publication in peer-reviewed journals. Graduate students are strongly encouraged to submit manuscripts of their findings for publication.
Date:	Attend workshop or meet with consultant from Graduate School Editorial Office to become familiar with dissertation formatting requirements.
Date:	At end of each year, complete IDP self-assessment and meet with Major Advisor to discuss IDP and progress. Create IDP action plan and submit last page of IDP form by the end of the summer semester each year.
Date:	The semester before you plan to graduate, check with Student Services to ensure you have completed all requirements and resolved any issues.

Final Semester

Credits:	Register for the minimum hours of SWS 7980 unless you have obtained “cleared prior” status. Students on an assistantship must register for the minimum number of hours required for the assistantship.
Date:	Schedule Exit Seminar with Student Services.
Date:	Fill out an online degree application (through One.UF) and submit it to the Office of the University Registrar by the UF deadline.
Date:	Present Exit Seminar.
Date:	Complete dissertation.
Date:	Schedule the dissertation defense/final examination and notify Student Services no later than 10 business days ahead of time . Final Exam Form, ETD Signature Page, and Publishing Agreement forms must be generated in the system for all students, and an announcement of examinations must be made.
Date:	Complete dissertation defense/final examination. Any discrepancies between the Proposed and Final Plan of Study forms must be approved by all members of the Supervisory Committee at the defense/final examination before the student may graduate.
Date:	Refine dissertation according to suggestions from Supervisory Committee.
Date:	Review the Graduate School Graduation Checklists to ensure you meet all dissertation submission requirements and deadlines.
Date:	Submit the final revised version of dissertation to Supervisory Committee and seek faculty approval (signatures).
Date:	After approval by committee, submit dissertation electronically to Graduate School ETD office.
Date:	Submit the following signed forms to Student Services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Plan of Study form • Final Exam Form • ETD Signature Page • Publishing Agreement
Date:	Complete SWS survey form.
Date:	Complete exit interview with Department Chair.
Date:	Return office keys and other related materials to the department / Major Advisor.
Date:	Finalize manuscripts and submit them to peer-reviewed journals.
Date:	Graduation.