**ALL SEMESTERS**

- Enroll in courses and/or research (6-9 graded credits per semester)
- Register for MSE 6401 (1 credit)

**YEAR 1**

**Semester 1: Advisor & Research**
- Enroll in at least 2 MSE core courses (5301, 5309 or 5334)
- Discuss research interests with faculty
- Choose a major advisor
- Begin work in research group
- Maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0
- Prepare for qualifying exam

**Semester 2: Start Research**
- Pass qualifying exam (early January)
- Enroll in research (GRAD 6950) and/or additional courses

**YEARS 2 & 3**

**Submit Plan of Study to the Graduate School**
(20 credits completed)
[https://grad.uconn.edu/forms/](https://grad.uconn.edu/forms/)

**Form an advisory committee**
- 1 major advisor and 2 associate advisors
- Note: advisory committee guidelines [https://gradcatalog.uconn.edu/grad-school-info/advisory-system/](https://gradcatalog.uconn.edu/grad-school-info/advisory-system/)

**Years >3**

**Complete 30 graded course credits and 15 graded research credits**

**Prepare Dissertation**

**FINAL DEFENSE**

For a complete checklist of required steps visit: [https://registrar.uconn.edu/graduation/doctoral-degrees/#dissertation-information](https://registrar.uconn.edu/graduation/doctoral-degrees/#dissertation-information)

- Apply for graduation in Peoplesoft during last semester
- Provide dissertation to advisory committee 2 weeks in advance of defense
- Defend dissertation and obtain signatures of advisory committee
- Complete IMS clearance form
- Announce final defense 2 weeks in advance on UConn and MSE event calendars
- Review dissertation submission checklist in link above
- Submissions
  - Submit 1 electronic copy of dissertation to Digital Commons
  - Submit completed dissertation checklist, 1 approval page, final exam form, and receipt of earned doctorate survey to Graduate School