



## 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

Continue to take graded courses toward your degree

Serve as a grader for 2 semesters

Submit Plan of Study to the Graduate School (after 18 credits completed)  
<https://grad.uconn.edu/forms/>

Upon Plan of Study approval by Graduate School, start proposal

### Form an advisory committee

- 1 major advisor and 2 associate advisors
- Note: advisory committee guidelines (<https://gradcatalog.uconn.edu/grad-school-info/advisory-system/>)

### Dissertation Proposal/General Exam

- Provide a copy of proposal to advisory committee 1 week in advance
- Defend proposal
- Submit proposal electronic copy, dissertation proposal approval, and general exam forms to Graduate School (at least 6 months before final Ph.D. defense)

## 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>

Apply for graduation in Peoplesoft during last semester

Announce final defense 2 weeks in advance on UConn and MSE event calendars

Provide dissertation to advisory committee 2 weeks in advance of defense

Defend dissertation and obtain signatures of advisory committee

Review dissertation submission checklist in link above

### Submissions

Complete IMS clearance form  
Includes: submitting pdf of thesis, returning keys.

- 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

