

GRS Ph.D. Graduation Deadlines (with Biology Program deadlines)

All degree requirements are complete only when the doctoral dissertation has been certified as meeting the standards of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and of the Mugar Memorial Library.

Deadline Dates for:	January 17, 2025	May 18, 2025	August 25, 2025*
Last Date to hold Final Oral Exam (Defense)	December 6, 2024	April 11, 2025	July 11, 2025
Last date to submit dissertation to ETD	December 13, 2024	April 18, 2025	July 18, 2025
Last date to submit dissertation to ETD for graduation in the next semester without registering for that semester	January 10, 2025	May 5, 2025	August 8, 2025

* August 2025 graduation dates are tentative. Please check the GRS website for the most current dates

Timeline for the Final Year

9 - 12 months before proposed graduation date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dissertation Prospectus & approval form due to Graduate Program Specialist for departmental review and submission to GRS
Semester prior to your intended graduation cycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Intent to Graduate Form Completed online
About 2 months before dissertation defense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meet with Graduate Program Specialist and Faculty Advisor to review requirements for defense ○ Arrange for Special Service Appointments if committee members are not BU faculty ○ Send first draft of dissertation to readers
Once defense date is confirmed with committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reserve room(s) for public seminar and defense
At least three weeks prior to dissertation defense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Schedule of Final Oral Exam with Abstract Approval due to Graduate Program Specialist ○ Properly formatted draft of dissertation submitted as .pdf to gsrsec@bu.edu
At least two weeks prior to dissertation defense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Send dissertation to all committee members
At least one week prior to dissertation defense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Send booklet to Graduate Program Specialist
See above for final dates to submit dissertation to ETD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Submit final dissertation to ETD (online submission) Email a copy of dissertation and signature page to Graduate Program Specialist