

You can expect that it will take about 2.5 years for an MS degree and 3.5 years for a PhD degree (assuming you enter with a completed MS degree), but possibly less time if your research does not involve fieldwork. This timeframe will also vary based on coursework required, other commitments the student may have, and many other factors. If a faculty member takes you on as a graduate student and provides a Graduate Assistantship, you should expect to be supported for these amounts of time. The faculty member is expected to let you know about funding issues prior to your acceptance and during your program. Both MS and PhD students must submit a Program of Study and a research proposal. These should be completed before the end of the second semester. PhD students are also required to complete a formal preliminary examination, which should be done soon after 30 credit hours have been completed. Detailed timelines related to research accomplishments, chapter submission to the graduate committee and the final defense are generally developed by graduate advisor, the student and the committee.