

MSD Milestones to Graduation

Every semester register for classes and check your progress in [Degreeworks](#)

Milestones to Graduation

Year 1 Fall:

Appointment of [Thesis Advisor/PI](#) (Principal Investigator)

Appointment of [Thesis Advisory Committee](#)

Year 1 Spring

Research Advisory Committee Meeting to approve [thesis research](#)

[Submit MSD Thesis Approval Form by January 31](#)

Submission of [Alexander Fellowship Application](#) June 1

Year 1 Summer

Research Advisory Committee Meeting to review progress

Admission to Candidacy

Admission to degree candidacy is a formal statement by the graduate student's faculty regarding the student's academic achievements and the student's readiness to proceed to the final research phase of the degree program. Students should complete their [Degree Candidacy Form](#) via DocuSign in the **spring** of their first year following approval of their thesis by their committee. Once completed please email sodgradstudy@vcu.edu a copy of the completed form.

Year 2/3 Fall:

Thesis Research

Research Advisory Committee Meeting to ensure that there is agreement with respect to the material deemed necessary and sufficient for incorporation into the thesis.

Year 2/3 Spring

[Apply to graduate](#) – you will receive an email from the graduate school

Schedule Thesis Defense

The defense deadline can be found in the [university academic calendar](#)

[Report the outcome of the defense](#)

Following finalization of thesis document. Initiate the [ETD](#)