

Your Path to a Degree

While timelines are different for each student, the list below provides an overview of what to plan for and expect as you work to complete your degree, with links to the section of this manual where you can find more information.

Before the beginning of your first semester:

- Communicate regularly with your Major Professor in the weeks or months before your arrival at Purdue about research, courses, and your arrival plans.
- Arrive one week before classes start at the latest, as graduate assistantships start one week before classes. Attend ABE Graduate Student Orientation and the Graduate School's Orientation during this week.
- Meet with your Major Professor to plan your first semester courses and research expectations.
 - Register for courses (usually 6-9 credits) and research credits, which should normally total 15 credits (courses plus research). Include the graduate student orientation seminar ABE 69400. See Section 3.4.
 - Discuss research expectations with your Major Professor. Complete the Research Registration Form, which should help ensure that you and your Major Professor have shared expectations. See Section 3.4

Semester 1

- Take courses and ABE 69400, Graduate Student Orientation.
- If you had any admissions conditions (submit official transcripts, etc.) that remain to be satisfied per the Graduate School, complete these.
- Develop your Plan of Study (See Section 3.2), based on discussions with your Major Professor, your research project, and your interests. Select a draft Committee, which can be changed later if needed.
- Before the end of the semester, register for the following semester including research credits. Complete the syllabus form for the following semester of research credit registration, discussing research expectations with your advisor.

Each semester

- Meet with your Committee to discuss courses, research, and progress each semester
- Take ABE 696 Seminar in Spring before completing your degree
- Register for the next semester including research credits. Discuss expectations with your advisor and complete the Research Registration Form.

Before Final Semester

- Register as CAND 991, 992, or 993 for the semester you plan to graduate (See Section 6.1)
- Plan process for final exam with Advisor and Committee
- Ensure that your Plan of Study is complete, courses in your Plan are correct, and all degree requirements are met, including ABE 696

PhD students only

- *(Direct to PhD students only):* Complete Qualifying Sequence starting in Year 2. See Section 1.3 for details.
- *(All PhD students):* Complete Preliminary Exam (Section 5.1), normally in year 2 after the Master's degree or in year 3 for Direct to PhD students. You must complete this at least one full year before you graduate.
- Complete ABE 697 seminar.



Final Semester

- Schedule Defense date with Major Professor and Committee. The Defense date must be at least 2 weeks before the end of the semester.
- Follow the details of the defense and submittal process in Section 6.4. Your responsibilities include filing Form 8 "Request for Appointment of Examining Committee", preparing a Defense Announcement using ABE template, printing rubric forms, and uploading your thesis to the Graduate School. Read these carefully and discuss with the Grad Program Coordinator and your Advisor to make sure all are clear.

After Graduation

- Keep in touch with your Major Professor and the Grad Program Admin in ABE. We look forward to hearing about your successes!