

FALL 2020 DEFENSE TIMELINE

For more information on Graduate School forms and deadlines, please see your *Doctoral Dissertation Defense Checklist*. These checklists can be found on the graduate program website.

DOCTORAL DISSERTATION DEFENSE

Friday, September 4

Final date to apply for graduation on Athena. Be sure you have an updated version of your advisory committee form on file at the Graduate School if you made any changes to your committee after comprehensive exams.

Wednesday, September 30

Final date to submit a complete draft of your dissertation to your major professor. You and your major professor then have two weeks to make any needed revisions before a final copy is distributed to the committee. We assume that you have been working closely with your major professor and your committee for quite some time, but by this time you should have put together a complete draft.

Wednesday, October 14

Final date to distribute the final copy of your dissertation to your committee members. Your committee has three weeks to read your dissertation before deciding whether or not you are ready to defend. The committee may also request changes before the defense takes place. Although a defense time and date will be reserved soon after distribution, please be aware that this might be canceled or rescheduled if your committee does not approve your dissertation for a defense.

Monday, November 2

Final date to electronically submit one complete copy of your dissertation for a format check on the Graduate school website.

Wednesday, November 18

Absolute last day the Graduate Advisor will schedule a defense. The committee may request changes before final approval.

Wednesday, November 25 (please note that this is during Thanksgiving Break)

Final date to submit the Defense Approval Form and final copy of your dissertation to the Graduate School for a December graduation. This means all suggested changes have been made and your major professor has given final approval of these changes.