

Milestones for PhD Students in Chemical Engineering

1. At the end of Year 1: Students are required to take a qualifier exam in front of the entire department faculty. The outcome is pass, conditional pass, or fail. **The qualifier date for this year is Friday, September 9, 2016.**
2. At the end of Year 2: Students are required to present a proposal defense in front of the thesis committee (three professors from the department; external committee members are optional for proposal defense). The outcome is pass or fail. The proposal defense should take place before the end of the Spring semester of the second year. **The date for this year is before May 19, 2017.**
3. At the end of Year 3: Students are required to present his/her research results in front of the department (faculty and students). There is no pass/fail for this presentation. However, the graduate committee will discuss with thesis advisor(s) if significant deficiency is observed during the presentation. **The date for this year is Friday, May 5, 2017.**
4. Thesis defense: The defense will be evaluated by the thesis committee (three professors from the department **plus** two external members). The outcome is pass or fail.

Note: Students need to discuss with his/her thesis advisor(s) to identify thesis committee members.

Timelines for PhD Track Students

All PhD students in **Good Standing MUST** follow the timelines below:

1. Before November 1 of Semester #3, complete the application for the MS degree
2. In Semester #4, register for 15 credits (Note: you will not be able to register for Residence Unit yet, but you will receive one Residence Unit at the end of the semester after you complete Item 3 listed below)
3. In February of Semester #4, complete on-line "Change of Status Form from MS to PhD" (Change of status form available at: <http://engineering.columbia.edu/downloadable-forms>
Note: the completion of this form will enable you to receive two Residence Units from your MS studies)
4. In Semester #5, register for one Residence Unit and 15 credits
5. In Semester #6, register for one Residence Unit
6. In Semester #7, register for one Residence Unit

The above timeline will ensure that you will fulfill the requirements for your PhD defense: **six Residence Units and 30 credits after the MS degree.**

7. In Semester #8, apply for M. Phil., which is a prerequisite for your PhD defense.

