

PhD Requirements in Earth and Environment

Students may be admitted in the spring or the fall semester for the PhD program. The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and the Department of Earth and Environment guarantee five academic years (January to April and September to December) of financial support to students who maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress. This support will be in the form of Teaching Fellowships, Research Assistantships, or Graduate Fellowships. All requirements for the doctorate, including dissertation, shall be completed within five years (exceptions require a petition to GRS).

Satisfactory Academic Progress:

- Maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- Have no failing grades (lower than B- or an incomplete grade older than 12 months)
- Pass qualifying exams and other milestones on the schedule specified below.

Course Work:

- For PhD in Earth Science, the course requirements as stated in:
<http://www.bu.edu/academics/grs/programs/earth-environment/phd/>
- For PhD in Geography and Environment, the course requirements as stated in:
<http://www.bu.edu/academics/grs/programs/earth-environment/phd-2/>
- Students are expected to complete their course work within two years after entering the PhD program.

Qualifying Exam:

- For PhD in Earth Science, the qualifying exam requirements as stated in:
<http://www.bu.edu/academics/grs/programs/earth-environment/phd/>
- For PhD in Geography and Environment, the qualifying exam requirements as stated in:
<http://www.bu.edu/academics/grs/programs/earth-environment/phd-2/>
- Students are expected to complete this requirement by the end of the last semester of coursework or at the beginning of the following semester.

Dissertation Prospectus:

- For PhD in Earth Science, the dissertation prospectus requirements as stated in:
<http://www.bu.edu/academics/grs/programs/earth-environment/phd/>
- For PhD in Geography and Environment, the dissertation prospectus requirements as stated in:
<http://www.bu.edu/academics/grs/programs/earth-environment/phd-2/>

- Students are expected to present and defend their dissertation prospectus soon after passing the qualifying exam.

Dissertation:

- Students shall file an application to graduate with the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Office for the semester in which they intend to defend their dissertation. Students may not defend their dissertation in the same semester as the defense of the dissertation prospectus.
- The dissertation shall conform to the guidelines stated in “A Guide for the Writers of Dissertations and Theses.” The Records Office must approve the format of the dissertation before it can be submitted officially.
- At least three weeks prior to the defense, students must submit a defense abstract of no more than 350 words to the Records office. Prior to submission, the abstract must be read and approved by the first reader. Upon final approval by the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, the Final Oral Examination may be scheduled.
- The final oral exam (dissertation defense) shall consist of an oral presentation of the dissertation by the candidate. The defense shall be open to the public. The later part of the defense shall be limited to the dissertation committee. A decision on the outcome of the defense shall be made by the committee and conveyed to the candidate.
- Additional requirements for dissertations toward PhD in Earth Science as stated in: <http://www.bu.edu/academics/grs/programs/earth-environment/phd/>
- Additional requirements for dissertations toward PhD in Earth Science as stated in: <http://www.bu.edu/academics/grs/programs/earth-environment/phd-2/>