

GRS Ph.D. Graduation Deadlines (with Program deadlines)

All degree requirements are complete only when the doctoral dissertation has been certified as meeting the standards of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and of the Mugar Memorial Library.

Deadline Dates for:	January 15, 2027	May 16, 2027*	August 25, 2027*
Intent to Graduate Form completed online	September 17, 2026	January 21, 2027	May 20, 2027
Last Date to hold Final Oral Exam (Defense)	December 3, 2026	April 8, 2027	July 8, 2027
Last date to submit dissertation to ETD	December 10, 2026	April 15, 2027	July 15, 2027
Last date to submit dissertation to ETD for graduation in the next semester without registering for that semester	January 7, 2027	May 6, 2027	August 5, 2027

* Graduation dates are tentative. Please check the [GRS website](#) for the most current dates.

Timeline for the Final Year

9 - 12 months before proposed graduation date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Dissertation Prospectus & approval form due to Graduate Program Specialist for departmental review and submission to GRS
Semester prior to your intended graduation cycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Intent to Graduate Form Completed online
About 2 months before dissertation defense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Meet with Graduate Program Specialist and Faculty Advisor to review requirements for defense o Arrange for Special Service Appointments if committee members are not BU faculty o Send first draft of dissertation to readers
Once defense date is confirmed with committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Reserve room(s) for public seminar and defense
At least three weeks prior to dissertation defense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Dissertation Defense Information form due to Graduate Program Specialist o Properly formatted draft of dissertation submitted as .pdf to grsrec@bu.edu
At least two weeks prior to dissertation defense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Send dissertation to all committee members
At least one week prior to dissertation defense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Send booklet to Graduate Program Specialist
See above for final dates to submit dissertation to ETD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Submit final dissertation to ETD (online submission), approval page via DocuSign, processing fee, BU Doctoral Exit Surveys, Survey of Earned Doctorates, and GRS contact form.