

Thesis & Dissertation Deadlines: Spring 2026 – Regular Semester

To have your degree awarded at the end of the spring semester, you may complete all requirements either during intersession (the time between terms, before the spring semester begins) or during the regular spring semester.

This sheet lists all required items for the Regular Semester Deadlines. All posted deadlines are firm and must be met for your degree to be awarded in Spring 2026. *If you cannot meet these deadlines, review the Thesis & Dissertation Deadlines for Fall 2026 and notify your graduate specialist of your updated completion plans.*

Semester Start Date: 1/20/26
Semester End Date: 5/15/26

Task	Description	Regular Semester Deadline
Apply for Graduation	Submit your application so your name appears on the graduation list and your degree can be awarded. This must be done even if you do not plan to participate in a commencement ceremony.	March 17
Attend Formatting Workshop	Attend the formatting workshop and/or help sessions offered by Graduate Education. The workshop provides guidance on using the thesis/dissertation Word template.	February 25
Submit Early Draft	Submit a complete draft (title page through vita, with all sections/references/appendices) for the first format check. You may continue revising content afterward, but this check helps catch formatting issues early.	March 8
Submit Final Doctoral Defense Notification Form	Doctoral students must submit the details of their defense so it can be publicized at least 7 days in advance. If this requirement is not met, the defense must be rescheduled.	10 days before defense
Submit Pre-Defense Draft	Once your final defense is scheduled, submit an updated draft to your assigned format checker for review.	April 5
Final Defense	Present your research to your committee at your scheduled defense. Enrollment on the date of the exam is required*.	April 17
Form 2/ Form 7 Due 	Form 2/7 must reach Graduate Education (gradforms@mst.edu) by the deadline, with all departmental approvals complete. You are responsible for ensuring the form reaches Graduate Education on time. Final approval will not be given until your thesis/dissertation has been accepted.	April 22
Submit Post-Defense Draft	After making committee revisions and submitting Form 2/7, send your updated draft to your assigned format checker for a third review. Be sure all formatting corrections have been made, as unresolved issues can delay graduation.	April 22
Submit Final Draft	Submit your corrected, fully formatted thesis/dissertation by the posted deadline, following the instructions provided by your format checker. Missing this deadline means your degree cannot be awarded this term.	April 29

*If exam occurs during the intersession, the student must have been enrolled in the immediately preceding semester/session; or, prior to the exam, they must enroll in one credit hour of Oral Exam, 5040/6040.

Meet the deadlines listed for each term to have your degree awarded at the time shown. You may choose to walk in either of the listed ceremonies.

Deadlines Met	Degree Awarded ¹	Commencement Ceremony Options ²
Fall 2025 – Intersession ³ or Regular Semester	December 2025	December 2025 or May 2026
Spring 2026 – Intersession ³ or Regular Semester	May 2026	May 2026 or December 2026
Summer 2026 – Intersession ³ or Regular Session	July 2026	December 2026 or May 2027

¹ Degree Awarded — This is the official date your degree is conferred and will appear on your transcript and diploma.

² Commencement Ceremony — This is the celebration event where you may choose to walk. You are not required to attend. You may only walk in the ceremonies listed for your degree award term.

³ Intersession — If you finish during intersession, your degree is still awarded in that same semester (e.g., Before start of fall semester = December; Before start of spring semester = May; Before start of summer session = July)