

# Thesis & Dissertation Deadlines: Fall 2026

To have your degree awarded at the end of the Fall 2026 semester, you may complete all requirements either

- during intersession (the period between terms before the fall semester begins), or
- **during the regular fall semester**

This guide lists the required steps and deadlines for regular completion. If you cannot meet these deadlines, review the Spring 2027 Intersession Deadlines and notify your graduate specialist of your updated completion plans.

**Missing these deadlines means your degree cannot be awarded in December and you are not eligible to participate in December 2026 commencement.**

**Fall Semester Dates: 8/24/26 –12/18/26**

Required Step	What to Do	Deadline
Submit <a href="#">Early Draft</a> for Review	Submit your thesis or dissertation to Graduate Education for an early format review. All sections, references, and appendices should be included, even if content is still being added. This step helps identify formatting issues early while you continue updating your document.	June 21
Submit <a href="#">Final Doctoral Defense Notification Form</a>	Doctoral students must submit the Final Defense Notification Form at least 10 days before the defense so the defense can be publicized. If the defense is not publicized at least 7 days before the defense, it must be rescheduled.	At least 10 days before defense
Submit Pre-Defense Document for Review	Submit an updated draft to your assigned format checker after scheduling your defense. The draft should be complete enough for your committee to review, though minor edits may still be made afterward.	About 2 weeks before defense
Hold Final Defense	Present your research to your committee at your final examination (defense). Enrollment on the exam date is required. *	November 6
<a href="#">Form 2/</a> <a href="#">Form 7</a> Received by Graduate Education	Submit Form 2 (Master's) or Form 7 (Doctoral) to report the results of your defense. The form must be approved by your department and received by Graduate Education by the deadline. It also records the approval of your final thesis or dissertation, so it will not be approved until after your final thesis or dissertation is accepted.	November 13
Submit Post-Defense Document for Review	After making revisions required by your committee and submitting Form 2/7, send your updated draft to your assigned format checker for a final format review. Before submitting, ensure all corrections are complete and formatting is double-checked. Unresolved issues at this stage can delay acceptance of your final draft and your graduation.	As soon as possible after your defense and all required revisions are complete
Final Accepted by Graduate Education	Your format checker will send final submission instructions based on the release information on your Form 2/7. This submission becomes the official archived copy.	November 20

\* If the defense occurs during intersession, the student must have been enrolled in the **preceding semester/session** or must enroll in **one credit of Oral Exam (5040/6040)** before the defense.

The deadlines you meet determine when your degree is officially awarded and the commencement ceremony in which you are eligible to participate in. The table below outlines the 2026–2027 academic year.

Deadlines Met	Degree Awarded <sup>1</sup>	Commencement Ceremony Options <sup>2</sup>
Fall 2026 – Intersession <sup>3</sup> or Regular Semester	December 2026	December 2026 or May 2027
Spring 2027 – Intersession <sup>3</sup> or Regular Semester	May 2027	May 2027 or December 2027
Summer 2027 – Intersession <sup>3</sup> or Regular Session	July 2027	December 2027 or May 2028

<sup>1</sup> Degree Awarded — Official degree conferral date listed on your transcript and diploma.

<sup>2</sup> Commencement Ceremony — Optional ceremony where you may walk, based on your degree award term.

<sup>3</sup> Intersession — Completing requirements during intersession results in the degree being awarded after the close of the following term (before fall = December; before spring = May; before summer = July).