Ph.D. Program Checklist

**ALL SEMESTERS**
- Enroll in courses and/or research (6-9 graded credits per semester)
- Register for MSE 6401 (1 credit)

**YEAR 1**

- **Semester 1: Advisor & Research**
  - Enroll in at least 2 MSE core courses (5301, 5309, 5322, or 5334)
  - Discuss research interests with faculty
  - Begin work in research group
  - Maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0
  - Prepare for qualifying exam

- **Semester 2: Start Research**
  - Pass qualifying exam (early January)
  - Enroll in research (MSE 6950) and/or additional courses

**YEARS 2 & 3**

- Form an advisory committee
  - Choose 1 major advisor and 2 associate advisors
  - Note: advisory committee guidelines ([http://gradcatalog.uconn.edu/grad-school-info/advisory-system/](http://gradcatalog.uconn.edu/grad-school-info/advisory-system/))

- Serve as a grader for 2 semesters

- Continue to take graded courses toward your degree

- Upon Plan of Study approval by Graduate School, start proposal

**YEARS > 3**

- Prepare Dissertation

- Complete 30 graded course credits and 15 graded research credits

**FINAL DEFENSE**

- Apply for graduation in Peoplesoft during last semester
- Provide dissertation to advisory committee 2 weeks in advance of defense
- Defend dissertation and obtain signatures of advisory committee
- Complete IMS checkout form

For a complete checklist of required steps visit: [http://grad.uconn.edu/current-students/forms/](http://grad.uconn.edu/current-students/forms/)

- Submit Plan of Study to the Graduate School (after 18 credits completed)
  - [http://grad.uconn.edu/current-students/forms/](http://grad.uconn.edu/current-students/forms/)

- Dissertation Proposal/General Exam
  - Provide a copy of proposal to advisory committee 1 week in advance
  - Defend proposal
  - Submit proposal hard copy, dissertation proposal approval, and general exam forms to Graduate School (at least 6 months before final Ph.D. defense)

- Announce final defense 2 weeks in advance on UConn and MSE event calendars

- Review dissertation submission checklist in link above

- Submissions
  - Submit 1 electronic copy of dissertation to Digital Commons
  - Submit completed dissertation checklist, 1 approval page, final exam form, and receipt of earned doctorate survey to Graduate School

**http://www.mse.engr.uconn.edu/graduate-program/ph-d-program**