

GUIDELINES FOR GRADUATING STUDENTS

Starting Fall 2026, the Graduate School has updated its graduation procedures. The process is now more streamlined and straightforward than in previous years. To help simplify a busy final semester, please review the **PBGP** and **UF Graduate School** graduation requirements and deadlines outlined below. We encourage you to begin planning early to ensure a smooth and timely graduation process.

PBGP REQUIREMENTS

To graduate with a Ph.D. in PBGP, you must:

- Be an approved Ph.D. candidate (at least one semester must have elapsed between qualifying exams and graduation).
- Complete 40 credits of coursework, including:
 - 20 credits of core courses (including 4 credits of Journal Colloquia)
 - 20 credits of electives
 - Approved master's transfer credits may count toward the total.
- Successfully complete and pass your final Ph.D. defense.
- Obtain acceptance of your dissertation by UF's Thesis, Dissertation, and Publication (TDP) office.
- **Submit at least one first-author manuscript to a peer-reviewed scientific journal before your final defense.**
 - Use the affiliation: **Plant Breeding Graduate Program, University of Florida** (regardless of your advisor's department or unit).
- We encourage you to maintain updated LinkedIn and Google Scholar profiles to document publications, awards, and professional accomplishments.

UF GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Graduate School graduation information is available at:

- Getting Ready to Graduate: <https://grad.ufl.edu/current/graduate/>
- Thesis & Dissertation Submission: <https://grad.ufl.edu/current/academics/tdp/submission/>

What has changed: The Graduate School now uses **one submission deadline** (no separate first and final submissions), and your **final oral defense must be completed before dissertation submission**.

SPRING 2027 GRADUATION DEADLINES and SUBMISSION PROCESS

- **February 5, 2027:** Submit your degree application in ONE.UF.
- Schedule a consultation with the **UFIT Thesis and Dissertation Support Center** (<https://it.ufl.edu/helpdesk/graduate-resources/>) for formatting guidance, templates, seminars, and consultations. Multiple appointments are allowed. We strongly encourage students to use this resource **before** starting to write.
- **March 23, 2027:** Last day to schedule your final oral defense seminar.
- Provide your committee with your dissertation **at least two weeks before the defense**.
- **April 6, 2027:** You must submit the following:
 - Defended PDF in GIMS.
 - [UF Publishing Agreement \(in GIMS\)](#)
 - [ProQuest Publishing Agreement](#)
 - [Survey of Earned Doctorates \(SED\)](#)
- Following your defense seminar, Eliana will send the **Final Exam Form** and **ETD Signature Page** to your committee for signatures. Once signed, Eliana will submit the completed documents, which are required before you can submit your dissertation.

- **April 27:** Achieve Final Approval from the Graduate School.

NOTE: You are almost ready but need more time? If so, **Pre-Term Approval might be an option for you.** Carefully read Pre-Term Approval specific **requirements** and **deadlines** at <https://grad.ufl.edu/current/academics/tdp/submission/> to check if you would be eligible.

SCHEDULING YOUR FINAL DEFENSE SEMINAR

A public oral seminar must be scheduled as part of your final Ph.D. defense and before you can submit your dissertation to the Graduate School. **The final exit seminar date must be scheduled at least 3 weeks in advance** to avoid conflicts with other program activities. Please send Eliana:

- Seminar title
- Date and time
- Room/location
- High-resolution photo for the announcement

Eliana will set up the UF Zoom link, make you and your advisor/co-advisor co-hosts, and share the link. Please let her know if anyone else needs to be included as co-hosts. Dennis Brown (Horticultural Sciences IT manager, dennisb@ufl.edu,) will assist with Zoom setup and recording.

PBGP EXIT SURVEY

Please take a few moments to complete the exit survey for graduates of our Ph.D. in Plant Breeding at <https://forms.gle/JG8BSMjE7xVLVeSm9>. Your responses are confidential, and your honest, candid feedback will help us improve our program. Thank you!

COMMENCEMENT VS. DEGREE CERTIFICATION

- **Commencement:** The graduation ceremony. Check [UF Commencement](#) for cap-and-gown deadlines.
- **Degree Certification:** Official awarding of your degree after PBGP, the Graduate School, and the Registrar verify completion of all requirements. More information: <https://registrar.ufl.edu/services/diplomas>.