

**BU Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine  
GRADUATE MEDICAL SCIENCES**

**2026 GRADUATION CALENDAR - *PhD DEGREE CANDIDATES***

*Students may not submit dissertation or attend the May Commencement ceremony unless a [Diploma Application](#) has been submitted by the appropriate deadline! August tentative graduates may not attend the May 2026 commencement ceremony.*

**NOTE: click on links**

1. A candidate must be registered for the semester in which the degree requirements are completed and during the preceding semester. Review the [PhD Completion of Degree Checklist](#).
2. Candidates must adhere to the guidelines as stipulated in the [Guide for Writers of Thesis and Dissertations](#), published by the Mugar Memorial Library. Additional information is available on the GMS website: [PhD Program Research and Dissertation \(Thesis\) Information](#).
3. Submit a [Special Service Appointment Form](#) along with C.V., for non GMS faculty committee members that are not listed on the [GMS Educators & Mentors webpage](#).
4. The following information and deadlines apply to students who anticipate receiving PhD degree at one of the following graduation cycles. Department/programs may impose additional deadlines.
5. The diploma application is valid only for the graduation date specified; a new application must be submitted if degree requirements are not completed.

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***ALL FORMS can be found on the [GMS Student Forms](#) - GMS website***

	<b><u>January 2026 Award</u></b>	<b><u>May 2026 Award</u></b>	<b><u>August 2026 Award</u></b>
<b>Dissertation Prospectus Outline</b> (Dates are flexible over a two week period)	March 31, 2025	October 26, 2025	February 2, 2026
<b>SUBMIT Diploma Application by</b>	<b>September 16, 2025</b>	<b>December 1, 2025</b>	<b>May 1, 2026</b>
<b>Dissertation Abstract</b> (Submit three weeks prior to defense schedule)	Three weeks prior	Three weeks prior	Three weeks prior
<b>Schedule of Final Oral Examination</b> (Arrange with Dept/Program admin)	Two weeks prior to the Final Oral Exam	Two weeks prior to the Final Oral Exam	Two weeks prior to the Final Oral Exam
<b>Last Date to hold Final Oral Exam</b>	December 3, 2025	March 27, 2026	July 8, 2026
<b>Dissertation Format Review Begins</b> (An email will be sent with specific dates)	<b>October 29, 2025</b>	<b>February 23, 2026</b>	<b>June 10, 2026</b>
<b>Last day to submit final Dissertation</b>	<b>December 7, 2025</b>	<b>April 1, 2026</b>	<b>July 10, 2026</b>

**All PhD degree requirements are complete only when the final paperwork of the dissertation have been certified as meeting the standards of GMS and the Mugar Memorial Library.**

***Information for MD/PhD Degree candidates is listed on the next page.***

## ***MD/PhD DEGREE CANDIDATES***

### ***ENTERING 3<sup>rd</sup> year MD Curriculum – Fall 2026***

MD/PhD degree candidates are awarded both the MD and PhD degrees simultaneously (at the time of completion of both degrees), the dates for submission of dissertations may vary from the above schedule of deadlines. Consequently, MD/PhD students who expect to complete the PhD portion of their studies in 2025-2026 academic year and anticipate entering BUSM III in 2026, should follow these rules:

**Transition Form:** submit by October 1, 2025.

**Dissertation Defense Exam Schedule:** should be scheduled prior to returning to the third year of medical school. Students must contact [GMSRegistrar@bu.edu](mailto:GMSRegistrar@bu.edu) regarding completion of degree requirements.

Students should submit the **PhD Dissertation Abstract** **three weeks** prior to the dissertation defense schedule. Dissertation Defense schedule should be scheduled **two weeks** in advance. You may schedule dissertation defense as soon as the abstract has been approved via: [GMS Student Forms](#)

**Final dissertation submission:** no more than 60 days after passing the Final Dissertation Defense Examination. MD/PhD scholarships are not awarded until approved and signed dissertations have been accepted by the GMS Office.