

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

2027 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 2027 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 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.

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

	<u>January 2027 Award</u>	<u>May 2027 Award</u>	<u>August 2027 Award</u>
Dissertation Prospectus Outline (Dates are flexible over a two-week period)	March 31, 2026	October 26, 2027	February 2, 2027
SUBMIT Diploma Application by	September 16, 2026	December 1, 2027	April 30, 2027
Dissertation Abstract (Submit three weeks prior to defense schedule)	Three weeks prior	Three weeks prior	Three weeks prior
Schedule of Final Oral Examination (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
Last Date to hold Final Oral Exam	December 3, 2026	March 26, 2027	July 8, 2027
Dissertation Format Review Begins (An email will be sent with specific dates)	October 29, 2026	February 23, 2027	June 10, 2027
Last day to submit final Dissertation	December 7, 2026	April 1, 2027	July 13, 2027

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

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

MD/PhD DEGREE CANDIDATES

ENTERING 3rd year MD Curriculum – Fall 2027

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 2026-2027 academic year and anticipate entering BUSM III in 2027, should follow these rules:

MD/PhD Transition Form: submit by October 1, 2026.

Dissertation Defense Exam Schedule: should be scheduled prior to returning to the third year of medical school. Students must contact 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.