



## Defense and Graduation Deadlines for Anschutz Medical Campus Thesis MS and PhD Students Academic Year 2025-2026

[Watch](#) how to prepare the correct forms and upload your dissertation.

PhD and MS thesis students intending to graduate and participate in graduation ceremonies for any given term must adhere to the deadlines identified below. These deadlines are established and published a year in advance for any given term to provide students with time to plan for graduation and to ensure the Graduate School can clear students of all graduation requirements and verify degree awards. It also allows compliance with requirements and deadlines set by other offices for graduation. Deadlines are different for MS students without a thesis requirement (see [Graduation Deadlines for Non-Thesis MS Students](#)). **Note: If you miss deadlines in the current semester, your degree conferral will be postponed to the next semester.** But if you pass your defense before the end of the current semester, you don't have to register for additional credit; just apply again to graduate in the next semester. (Example: If you defend on November 21, 2025, apply to graduate in Spring 2026 but don't register for Spring 2026.) International students should consult with the International Student and Scholar Services Office regarding their graduation end date.

Task	Fall 2025 Graduation	Spring 2026 Graduation	Summer 2026 Graduation
Submit your <b>Application for Graduation</b> (in your UCDAccess student portal) to notify the Registrar and GS of your intent to graduate.	Between: <b>June 9, 2025</b> and <b>September 5, 2025</b>	Between: <b>September 8, 2025</b> and <b>January 30, 2026</b>	Between: <b>February 2, 2026</b> and <b>June 5, 2026</b>
Submit <b>Exam Request</b> form to the Graduate School to schedule defense exam.	No later than: <b>October 31, 2025</b>	No later than: <b>April 3, 2026</b>	No later than: <b>July 6, 2026</b>
<i>MS Only:</i> Submit <b>Application for Candidacy</b> form to the Graduate School.	<b>With Exam Request</b>	<b>With Exam Request</b>	<b>With Exam Request</b>
<i>PhD Only:</i> Submit your <b>Biosketch</b> to the Graduate School.	<b>With Exam Request</b>	<b>With Exam Request</b>	<b>With Exam Request</b>
Prepare <b>Thesis Approval</b> form and submit to committee members via DocuSign	<b>By Defense Day</b>	<b>By Defense Day</b>	<b>By Defense Day</b>
Defend your thesis or dissertation.	No later than: <b>November 14, 2025</b>	No later than: <b>April 17, 2026</b>	No later than: <b>July 17, 2026</b>
Submit <b>Thesis Approval</b> form to the Graduate School via DocuSign.	No later than: <b>November 25, 2025</b>	No later than: <b>May 1, 2026</b>	No later than: <b>July 31, 2026</b>
Submit final thesis/dissertation to ProQuest.	No later than: <b>November 25, 2025</b>	No later than: <b>May 1, 2026</b>	No later than: <b>July 31, 2026</b>
Make final format edits through ProQuest.	<b>December 5, 2025</b>	<b>May 8, 2026</b>	<b>August 7, 2026</b>
<b>End of Term</b>	<b>December 12, 2025</b>	<b>May 15, 2026</b>	<b>August 14, 2026</b>
<b>Commencement</b>	<b>December 13, 2025</b>	<b>May 18, 2026</b>	<b>TBA</b>

### Reminders to all candidates:

- Follow the [Format Guide for Theses & Dissertations](#) carefully. The ProQuest link and instructions for submitting your thesis to ProQuest are also included in the Format Guide.
- Download all forms directly from [Graduate School Resources](#) to ensure you have the most current version.
- Your program administrator should review all forms before you (or they) submit to the Graduate School.
- You** must prepare and get your Thesis Approval form signed. This is separate from the Exam Report, which you will not handle. Both forms require similar signatures and are often confused (usually to the exclusion of the Thesis Approval).

### Reminders to Master's candidates:

- Refer to your unofficial transcript as you type your Application for Candidacy. The number of credits indicated on the first page should be the minimum required for your program of study. **Do not include failed classes or classes that were not necessary for your degree.** Courses listed on the Application for Candidacy cannot be counted toward a future master's degree.
- All transfer credits must be posted before you submit your Application for Candidacy.