DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
Ph.D. Program Checklist

ALL SEMESTERS
- Enroll in courses and/or research (6-9 graded credits per semester plus research credits)
- Register for 1 credit Graduate Seminar

YEAR 1
Semester 1: Advisor & Research
- Enroll in at least 2 ME core courses
- 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 written qualifying exam (early January if starting in August)
- Pass oral qualifying exam (within 6 months of passing written qualifying exam)
- Enroll in research and/or additional courses

YEARS 2 & 3
Form an Advisory Committee
- Choose 2 associate advisors
- Note: advisory committee guidelines: [link]

Upon Plan of Study Approval by Graduate School, Start Proposal
- 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)

YEARS > 3
Complete a Minimum of 21 Credit Hours After the M.S. (excluding requirements for dissertation, language and minor area) and 15 Graded Research Credits
- Prospectus Presentation (at least one year before graduation)
- Prepare Dissertation

FINAL DEFENSE
- For a complete checklist of required steps visit: [link]

Apply for Graduation in Peoplesoft During Last Semester
- Announce Final Defense 2 Weeks in Advance on UConn and ME Event Calendars

Provide Dissertation to Advisory Committee 2 Weeks in Advance of Defense
- Review Dissertation Submission Checklist in Link Above

Defend Dissertation and Obtain Signatures of Advisory Committee
- 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

Complete ME Clearance Form includes: submitting pdf of thesis, and returning keys