Defense and Graduation Deadlines for
Anschutz Medical Campus Thesis MS and PhD Students
Academic Year 2026-2027

Watch how to prepare the correct forms and upload your dissertation.

Note: Missing deadlines delays degree conferral to the next term. These are published a year in advance to support planning and ensure all graduation requirements are met. Deadlines differ for non-thesis MS students (see Graduation Deadlines for Non-Thesis MS Students).

PhD students who defend before the semester ends do not need to register again—just apply to graduate next term (e.g., defend on Nov 21, 2025 → apply for Spring 2026). International students should check with ISSS about graduation timing.

Task	Fall 2026 Graduation	Spring 2027 Graduation	Summer 2027 Graduation
Submit your **Application for Graduation** (in your UCDAccess student portal) to notify the Registrar and GS of your intent to graduate.	Between: **June 8, 2026** and **September 11, 2026**	Between: **September 14, 2026** and **February 5, 2027**	Between: **February 8, 2027** and **June 11, 2027**
Submit **Exam Request** form to the Graduate School to schedule defense exam.	No later than: **November 6, 2026**	No later than: **April 9, 2027**	No later than: **July 9, 2027**
MS Only: Submit **Application for Candidacy** form to the Graduate School.	**With Exam Request**	**With Exam Request**	**With Exam Request**
PhD Only: Submit your **Biosketch** to the Graduate School.	**With Exam Request**	**With Exam Request**	**With Exam Request**
Prepare **Thesis Approval** form and submit to committee members via DocuSign	**By Defense Day**	**By Defense Day**	**By Defense Day**
Defend your thesis or dissertation.	No later than: **November 20, 2026**	No later than: **April 23, 2027**	No later than: **July 23, 2027**
Submit **Thesis Approval** form to the Graduate School via DocuSign.	No later than: **December 4, 2026**	No later than: **May 7, 2027**	No later than: **August 6, 2027**
Submit final thesis/dissertation to ProQuest.	No later than: **December 4, 2026**	No later than: **May 7, 2027**	No later than: **August 6, 2027**
Make final format edits through ProQuest.	**December 11, 2026**	**May 14, 2027**	**August 13, 2027**
End of Term	**December 18, 2026**	**May 21, 2027**	**August 20, 2027**
Commencement	**December 19, 2026**	**May 24, 2027**	**N/A**

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.
- Access all forms from Graduate School Resources to ensure the correct forms are used.
- Prepare and sign the Thesis Approval form, which is different from the Report Form.

Reminders to Master's candidates:
- Refer to your unofficial transcript as you type your Application for Candidacy. Do not include failed classes or classes that will not be applied to 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.