

UW-Madison FMS graduation guidelines

Program and Degree requirements

1. Complete all your degree requirements. You can check out those requirements on the FMS Handbook or the guide.
2. Clear all Incomplete grades or Progress grades in non-research courses (progress grades in 990 research may remain) but won't count towards the degree.
3. The dissertation or thesis defense is one of the final steps in the Ph.D. or MS process. At least 3-4 weeks before the defense, you must request a final defense [warrant](#) from the graduate program coordinator. FMS students are required to present their dissertation or thesis research to the committee and are strongly encouraged to make a similar presentation as a formal seminar (e.g., the Wednesday noon Limnology seminar ATM OCN/BOTANY/CIV ENGR/ENVIR ST/GEOSCI/ZOOLOGY 911).
4. After your defense your committee should complete your warrant [defense evaluation rubric](#). When they have signed and completed the form send a copy of the completed warrant, rubric, and an updated CV to the graduate coordinator.
5. Depositing your dissertation or thesis is another big factor for graduating. This is done through the graduate school.
6. Depositing your thesis/dissertation, completing an exit survey and any other graduate school specific requirements can be found on their [website](#). The graduate school website will have instructions, requirements, and deadlines for depositing your dissertation.

Commencement and applying to graduate

7. All graduating master's and Ph.D. students, even those not participating in commencement, are required to indicate as such in their Student Center through MyUW. For more information visit: <https://registrar.wisc.edu/applyforgraduation/>
8. General information on the commencement ceremony if you plan to attend: <https://commencement.wisc.edu/>
9. If you have questions about subjects 1-4 please contact boldiis@wisc.edu. If you have questions about 5-6 please contact the [graduate school](#) about it. Questions for 7-8 please contact commence@chancellor.wisc.edu about it.
10. FAQ site regarding diplomas from UW-Madison <https://registrar.wisc.edu/diplomas/#FAQs>