

## Your Path to a Degree

While timelines are different for each student, the list below provides an overview of what to plan for and expect as you work to complete your degree, with links to the section of this manual where you can find more information.



### Before Your First Semester:

- Communicate regularly with your major professor before your arrival at Purdue about research, courses, and your arrival plans.
- Arrive at least one week before classes start, as graduate assistantships start one week before classes. Attend ABE Graduate Student Orientation and the Office of the Vice Provost for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Scholars' (OGSPS) Orientation during this week.
- Meet with your major professor to plan first semester courses and research.
  - Register for courses (often 6-9 credits) and research credits, which should normally total 10 credits for fall/spring. Include graduate student orientation seminar ABE 69400. (*See Section 3 of the Manual for details.*)
  - Discuss research expectations and complete the Research Registration Form, which should help ensure that you and your major professor have shared expectations. (*See Section 3 and Appendix D of the Manual.*)

### Semester 1

- Take courses and ABE 69400, the ABE Graduate Student Seminar (offered fall semesters).
- If you had any admissions conditions that remain to be satisfied per the OGSPS, complete these.
- Develop your Plan of Study as a part of ABE 69400, based on discussions with major professor, your research project, and your interests. You must include a draft Committee, which can be changed later if needed.
- Register for the following semester. Complete the registration form for the following semester of research credit registration, discussing research expectations with your advisor.

### Each Semester

- Meet with your Committee to discuss courses, research, and progress each semester.

- Take ABE 696 Seminar in a spring semester before completing your prelim exam or master's degree.
- Register for the next semester including research credits. Discuss expectations with your advisor and complete the Research Registration Form.

### Ph.D. students only

- If you are a direct to Ph.D. student, complete Qualifying Sequence starting in Year 2. See Section 1 for details.
- **All Ph.D. students:** Complete Preliminary Exam as described in Section 5. You must complete this at least one full year before you graduate.
- Complete ABE 697 seminar in a fall term before your prelim exam.

### Before Your Final Semester

- Register as CAND 99100 or 99200 for the semester you plan to graduate (See Section 6)
- Plan process for final exam with your major professor and committee.
- Ensure that your Plan of Study is complete, courses in your Plan are correct, and all degree requirements are met, including ABE 69400, 69600, and if required, ABE 69700 (Ph.D. Only)

### Final Semester

- Schedule Defense date with major professor and committee. The Defense date must be at least 2 weeks before the end of the semester.
- Follow the details of the defense and submittal process in Section 6. Your responsibilities include filing Form 8 "Request for Appointment of Examining Committee" and getting electronic approvals *at least 2 weeks before the exam*, preparing a Defense Announcement using the ABE template, printing rubric forms, submit your thesis/dissertation to the Office of the Vice Provost for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Scholars for a formatting consultation, and then uploading your thesis to the OGSPS. Read these carefully and discuss with Nikki and your major professor to make sure all are clear.

### After Graduation

- Keep in touch with your major professor and the ABE Graduate Program. We look forward to hearing about your successes!