

EPS GRADUATE STUDENT ROADMAP

Earth & Planetary Sciences • University of New Mexico

Deadlines and requirements at a glance

Keep this somewhere visible!

Your advisor + the EPS Graduate Committee + UNM Graduate Studies are your three key resources.

When in doubt, ask early.

EVERY SEMESTER

BEFORE / DURING WEEK 1

- ☐ Register for courses
- ☐ Meet with your advisor
- ☐ Review your progress toward your degree
- ☐ **Complete EPS Advisement Form** — *new students only, by end of Week 1*
- ☐ Identify any coursework deficiencies and make a plan to address them

DURING THE SEMESTER

- ☐ Meet regularly with your advisor
- ☐ Attend required EPS seminars/colloquia
- ☐ Make progress on research
- ☐ Keep your committee informed
- ☐ Check LoboWeb for grades, registration, and degree status

END OF SEMESTER

- ☐ Check your transcript
 - ☐ Review your Program of Study
 - ☐ Meet with your advisor about next semester
 - ☐ Update your research/degree timeline
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M.S. ROADMAP

SEMESTER 1

GET ESTABLISHED

By Week 1 → Advisement Form

→ Course plan

→ Identify research interests

By end of Semester 1 → **Choose 3-person thesis committee**

→ Notify EPS of committee membership

→ **Complete EPS Program of Study**

→ Begin defining thesis project

Your goal:

Advisor + Committee + Coursework + Research Direction

SEMESTER 2

COMPLETE THE MILESTONE

→ Continue coursework

→ Conduct thesis research

→ Prepare for **M.S. comprehensive/oral examination**

→ Complete thesis proposal/research plan

→ Schedule examination/defense

EPS target: M.S. examination during Semester 2

Your goal:

Pass the M.S. exam → **Focus on thesis research**

YEAR 2+

RESEARCH → THESIS → DEFENSE

→ Complete required coursework

→ Conduct thesis research

→ Meet with committee

→ Write thesis

→ Schedule defense

→ Submit thesis to UNM

WHEN GRADUATING

Semester BEFORE graduation → Tell EPS you intend to graduate

UNM deadlines

- **Spring graduation:** POS by **October 1**
- **Fall graduation:** POS by **July 1**
- **Summer graduation:** POS by **March 1**

Before defense → Announcement of Exam: **≥2 weeks before**

Final degree deadline → Spring: **April 15**

→ Fall: **November 15**

→ Summer: **July 15**

Ph.D. ROADMAP

SEMESTER 1

GET ESTABLISHED

By Week 1 → Advisement Form

→ Course plan

→ Identify research direction

By end of Semester 1 → **Form dissertation committee**

→ Complete EPS Program of Study

→ Begin identifying dissertation topic

Your goal:

Advisor + Committee + Coursework + Research Direction

SEMESTER 2

DEFINE YOUR RESEARCH

→ Refine dissertation topic

→ Develop **2 research abstracts**

→ Work with committee on abstracts

→ Continue coursework/research

EPS deadline for abstracts → **April 1** if Semester 2 is Spring

→ **November 1** if Semester 2 is Fall

Your goal:

Two approved research directions

SEMESTER 3

BECOME A CANDIDATE

→ Develop **2 research proposals** based on approved abstracts

→ Submit proposals to committee

→ Complete **Ph.D. comprehensive examination**

After passing → Submit **Application for Candidacy**

Your goal:

Pass comprehensive exam → **Advance to candidacy** → **Begin dissertation**

YEAR 3+

DISSERTATION RESEARCH

- Conduct research
- Meet regularly with committee
- Complete dissertation
- Schedule defense
- Defend dissertation
- Submit final dissertation



FINAL SEMESTER

At least 1 semester ahead → Tell EPS you intend to graduate

Before defense → Announcement of Exam: **≥2 weeks before**

Final degree deadline → Spring: **April 15**

→ Fall: **November 15**

→ Summer: **July 15**

After defense → Complete revisions

→ Submit dissertation to UNM Graduate Studies



DEADLINES TO REMEMBER

If you're graduating...	Program of Study	Defense/Exam	Final degree requirements
☀️ Summer	March 1	July 1	July 15
🍁 Fall	July 1	November 1	November 15
🌱 Spring	October 1	April 1	April 15

→ Announcement of Exam → **2 weeks before defense/exam**

→ Exam should take place at least 2 weeks before final degree requirements are due

→ UNM requires the POS no later than the term before graduation, and the current Graduate Studies deadlines are March 1, July 1, and October 1.



THREE THINGS THAT CAUSE PROBLEMS

1. WAITING UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE

If you think you may miss a deadline → **talk to your advisor + EPS Graduate Committee early.**

2. ASSUMING EPS AND UNM HAVE THE SAME DEADLINE

They don't always.

EPS deadline ≠ UNM deadline

Track both.

3. NOT KNOWING YOUR DEGREE TIMELINE

You should always be able to answer:

What am I doing this semester?

What is my next milestone?

What does my committee expect?

What is my next deadline?

☆ YOUR FIRST-YEAR CHECKLIST

FALL

- ☐ Advisement Form
- ☐ Advisor confirmed
- ☐ Committee formed
- ☐ EPS Program of Study
- ☐ Research direction established

SPRING

- ☐ Research project underway
- ☐ M.S. exam **OR** Ph.D. abstracts
- ☐ Meet with committee
- ☐ Plan next year's milestones

SUMMER

- ☐ Research!
- ☐ Fieldwork / data collection / analysis
- ☐ Write
- ☐ Meet with advisor
- ☐ Plan Fall semester

KEEP THESE BOOKMARKED

EPS Graduate Program

eps.unm.edu/graduate/

UNM Graduate Studies — Deadlines

grad.unm.edu/degree-completion/deadline.html

UNM Graduate Studies — Degree Completion

grad.unm.edu/degree-completion/

This is a quick-reference guide, not a substitute for the current EPS Graduate Handbook, UNM Catalog, or Graduate Studies deadlines.