

### Time to Degree/Major Milestones and Expectations

Your path may be different based on your circumstances – please ask questions (Graduate Advisor, your thesis mentor, GPD, etc.) if you are unsure of your ability to meet these milestones (adapted from IU Biology Microbiology Handbook)

Semester	Courses (cr)	Other Actions/Notes (Checklist)
1 Year 1 Fall	BIOL-L523 (1.5) BIOL-L501 (3.0) At least 1 of the 5 choices for major courses	<input type="checkbox"/> Engage in GCDB events, Attend seminar <input type="checkbox"/> Meet with 1 <sup>st</sup> year faculty mentor <input type="checkbox"/> Rotations <input type="checkbox"/> Select a lab at end of semester
2 Year 1 Spring	At least 1 of the 5 choices for major courses BIOL-L800 (to 12)	<input type="checkbox"/> Immerse yourself in thesis research <input type="checkbox"/> Engage in GCDB events (GRW?), Attend seminar <input type="checkbox"/> Assemble a thesis advisory committee before end of semester <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Complete advisory committee eDoc</a> <input type="checkbox"/> Discuss with mentor appropriate minor and plan path of classes to fulfill minor
3 Year 2 Fall	BIOL-Z620 Grant Writing (1.5) 1 of the 5 choices for major courses or a Minor course (0-4.5) BIOL-L800 (to 12)	<input type="checkbox"/> Work with mentor to outline a strong thesis project <input type="checkbox"/> Gather preliminary data for grant writing and committee meeting <input type="checkbox"/> Engage in GCDB events, Attend seminar <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Individual Development Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Submit committee meeting report and hold meeting by end of semester
4 Year 2 Spring	BIOL-L524 (1.5) 1 of the 5 choices for major courses or a Minor course (0-4.5) BIOL-L800 (to 12)	<input type="checkbox"/> Continue gathering preliminary data and improving thesis project outline for preliminary exam <input type="checkbox"/> Engage in GCDB events (GRW), Attend seminar <input type="checkbox"/> Present at a local or regional meeting?
5 Year 3 Fall	1 of the 5 choices for major courses or a Minor course (0-4.5) BIOL-L800 (to 12)	<input type="checkbox"/> Generate publication quality data, guide research more independently <input type="checkbox"/> Submit and orally defend your preliminary exam by 7th week of the semester <input type="checkbox"/> Engage in GCDB events, Attend seminar <input type="checkbox"/> Present at local or regional meeting?
6 Year 3 Spring	1 of the 5 choices for major courses or a Minor course (0-4.5) BIOL-L800 (to 12)	<input type="checkbox"/> All major and minor coursework complete? <input type="checkbox"/> If so, submit <a href="#">Nomination to candidacy application</a> Once candidacy is approved by the UGS, submit your: <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">NORC eDoc</a> completed $\geq$ 6 months prior to graduation. Include 1-2 page dissertation prospectus.
7 Year 4 Fall	BIOL-L800 (to 12)	<input type="checkbox"/> Generate publication quality data, guide research more independently, begin writing first manuscript? <input type="checkbox"/> Hold annual committee meeting <input type="checkbox"/> Engage in GCDB events, Present in GCDB trainee seminar series <input type="checkbox"/> Present at local or regional meeting?

8 Year 4 Spring	BIOL-L800 (to 6)	<input type="checkbox"/> 90 credit hours reached <input type="checkbox"/> Generate publication quality data, guide research more independently, have written drafts of research contributions <input type="checkbox"/> Engage in GCDB events (GRW), Attend seminar
Year 5+	With 90 credit hours, you can now enroll in <a href="#">G901</a> . (6 semesters max of G901)	<input type="checkbox"/> Generate publication quality data, drive research projects <input type="checkbox"/> Publish your work <input type="checkbox"/> Present research at a regional or national meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Hold annual committee meetings <input type="checkbox"/> Engage in GCDB events, Attend seminar

Dissertation Defense and Graduation:

- committee meeting ~ 6 months prior to defending
- write your dissertation in the [specified format](#)
- submit a [defense announcement](#)  $\geq$  45 days prior
- successfully defend your dissertation and revise
- obtain [defense signatures](#) after your defense
- [Submit your dissertation](#)