DISSERTATION/THESIS/MASTER'S PROJECT PROCESS STEPS
FALL 2026 SEMESTER TIMELINE

Prior to Semester	Establish Committee. *Complete IRB or IACUC application, if required. Schedule required pre-proposal meetings with the Committee Chair. Complete recommendations from the Committee members. Successfully defend proposal. Complete and submit Committee Approval form. *Submit IRB or IACUC application, if not already submitted. Schedule required post-proposal meetings with the Committee Chair. Collect data after IRB/IACUC approval.
Prior to Semester	Schedule oral defense of dissertation/thesis/project with Committee (tentative date).
One Month Prior to Defense	Meet with Committee for final recommendations.
Two Weeks Prior to Defense	Submit dissertation/thesis/project to all Committee members. Post notification of defense (submit to Graduate Studies).
One Week Prior to Defense	Complete a full mock defense proceeding with Committee Chair.
August 10 - September 21, 2026	Successfully defend dissertation/thesis/master's project. Submit Committee Report of Defense Results form to Graduate Studies.
October 9, 2026	Submit final edited, formatted copy of dissertation/thesis to ProQuest. Submit final edited, formatted project to Graduate Studies via email. (No extensions granted for spring commencement.)
October 9 - November 20, 2026	Respond to ProQuest process emails (Turnitin.com Report and Review/Revision emails) promptly.
November 20, 2026	Approval notice for commencement sent to students with approved published dissertation/thesis in ProQuest and approved projects. Invitations for Doctoral Hooding Ceremony sent.
December 4, 2026	Commencement