REQUIREMENTS FOR DEGREE AND SUGGESTED TIMELINE
FOR B.S. TO PH.D. (Plan III)

Funded Ph.D. students in good standing should expect continuous funding for four (4) years; support for the 5th year is not certain; support beyond the 5th year will not generally be endorsed by the Graduate Committee or Department.

1. Course and Credit-hour Requirements:
   - 90 cr. hr. total.
   - 30 cr. hr. Biol. 7990 (once started continuous registration, except non-credit hour summers, until degree is completed).
   - 60 cr. hr. coursework (finish before preliminary examination or end of third calendar year).
     - at least 10 cr. hr. of formal coursework including Biol 6820 (i.e., lecture/exam/letter-graded format)
     - no more than 22 cr. hr. at 5000 level.
     - at least 38 cr. hr. at 6000 level or above.
   - Specific coursework required (finish by end of first calendar year).
     - Biol. 7810 Department Seminar (at least one credit hour).
     - Deficiencies in calculus / organic chemistry with lab.
   - Specific coursework required (finish by end of second year).
     - Biol. 6820 Grant Writing.
   - Maintain Grade Point Average of 3.2 at all times (failure to do so will result in probation for a semester). If a 3.2 is subsequently not attained your admission in the program will be terminated.
   - Courses that do not count towards degree: Biol 5870; Biol 6910; Biol 6990; classes to fulfill ESL requirements; chemistry or calculus taken to fulfill deficiency.

First Year
   - Select advisor prior to the end of the first semester
   - File the Tentative Degree Program (TDP) no later than end of first calendar year; (7800's can be lumped together; 7830's can be lumped together; 7990's lumped together at 30 cr. hrs.). Submit completed TDP form with the appropriate signatures to the Graduate College.
   - Select committee and have a Research Prospectus Meeting (at end of 1st year but no later than the 1st semester of the 2nd year) before Preliminary Examination. An overview of proposed research is to be presented to and discussed with the committee. Submit the Research Prospectus form with the appropriate signatures to the Graduate Coordinator.

Second Year
   - Complete Preliminary Examination Application form to request a Graduate College Representative (at least 4 weeks before Preliminary Examination).
• Preliminary Examination – Written & Oral (by end of second calendar year). Submit the Preliminary Examination Application/Report Form with the appropriate signatures to the Graduate College.

Third Year
• Dissertation Topic Approval: Defend a formal research proposal, no later than 6 months after oral portion of preliminary exam. Submit a Topic Approval Form with the appropriate signatures to the Graduate College.

Fourth/Fifth Year
• Dissertation Defense: at least six weeks before commencement; must be announced to faculty at least two weeks before defense date). Submit ETD Approval/Submission form with the appropriate signatures to the Graduate College.
• Publications: manuscripts of doctoral work should be submitted to refereed journal prior to Commencement.
• Exit interview/form completed and turned in with a CV to Graduate Coordinator before leaving campus.