

Graduate Study Handbook

Plant Science and Landscape Architecture
Graduate Admissions Committee

Updated October 27, 2020

Welcome to the Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture! The Department is excited to have you with us in our graduate student community!

This handbook provides information that applies **specifically to the graduate students in our Department**. Some information is cited from the Graduate Catalog (GC) (<https://gradcatalog.uconn.edu/>). You should also consult The Graduate School website (<https://grad.uconn.edu/#>).

This Handbook describes how our department operates and provides the guidelines for admission and degree completion. This reference is meant to simplify your transit through graduate school.

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Arriving for your Graduate Study

Graduate students who are admitted to the program should contact their Major Advisor to clarify their plans and program details.

An invitation to participate in the University of Connecticut Graduate Student Orientation is sent in July to all new graduate students who are planning to begin their studies at the beginning of the academic year in the fall semester.

Other orientations may include:

- If you are a Teaching Assistant (TA), you are expected to attend CETL's orientation.
- If you are an international student, you will receive information regarding the orientation from the International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS).

Students enrolled in on-campus programs must arrive on campus **on or before the first day** of classes in each academic term in which they are enrolled or plan to enroll. Failure to meet these conditions may cause a delay in enrollment in a degree program until the following semester. Admission will be canceled if a student does not register for the required credits in the term to which they have been admitted.

Upon arrival to campus, students should report to their Major Advisor, PSLA main office staff, and get familiar with the University Campus (<https://maps.uconn.edu/>).

Major Advisor. Each student in the graduate degree program must have a Major Advisor. Since consistency of direction is important, a durable relationship between the student and the Major Advisor should be formed as early as possible. The Major Advisor is the chairperson of your Advisory Committee. The Major Advisor of any master's or doctoral student is responsible for coordinating the supervisory work of the Advisory Committee (GC).

If a change of Major Advisor becomes necessary for any reason, the student must file a special form bearing the signature of the new advisor, with The Graduate School (GC).

Choosing an Advisory Committee. Each student in the graduate degree program must have an Advisory Committee.

The Advisory Committee is formed after consultation between the Major Advisor and the student. The Advisory Committee must include at least two Associate Advisors, one of whom must hold a current appointment to the Graduate Faculty at the appropriate level in the student's particular field of study or area of concentration (GC).

Although the minimum is two, three Associate Advisors are recommended for Ph.D. degree programs.

An Associate Advisor must possess suitable academic or scientific credentials in the student's field of study. The Associate Advisors provide students with resources useful for research projects and preparations for future careers (GC).

The Advisory Committee should be formed before the student has completed 12 credits of degree program coursework (typically by the end of the second semester) and shall then supervise the remainder of the student's degree program (GC).

If a change or addition of an Associate Advisor becomes necessary for any reason, the student must discuss this issue with the Major Advisor.

Course Registration

The Graduate School Catalog contains graduate course descriptions:

<https://gradcatalog.uconn.edu/>

The Undergraduate Catalog describes advanced undergraduate courses that sometimes can be applied toward a graduate degree:

<https://catalog.uconn.edu/>

The Academic Calendar has information about the enrollment period

<https://registrar.uconn.edu/academic-calendar/>

The course enrollment is processed through the Student Administration System at

<https://studentadmin.uconn.edu/>

Course Selection

The Advisory Committee will help you to select courses based on your background and future specialization. It is always useful to confirm your plans with your Major Advisor before the semester begins.

Although the **Plan of Study** forms (which lists the courses you will take for the degree requirements) can be submitted as late as the fourth week of the student's final semester, it is highly recommended that you complete this requirement much earlier. The reason is quite simple: the sooner your Advisory Committee signs off on the courses you must take for your degree requirements, the sooner you can have a clear set of minimum criteria to follow. Once the Plan of Study is approved and signed by the Advisory Committee, no further changes (additions or deletions) can be required unless agreed upon by the student and Advisory Committee. Your Advisory Committee members have the final say on what courses you must take for your degree requirements. They can request more courses if they feel that you need them based on your deficiencies and academic history. It is best to submit a signed

Plan of Study form as early as possible. Once submitted, modifications by the student to the Plan of Study are possible if the Advisory Committee also signs the modified forms.

Graduate School Forms: All Forms can be found at <https://grad.uconn.edu/forms/>

Assistantships

Many graduate students while engaged in full-time degree study in the Department receive merit-based support in the form of graduate assistantships for teaching or research.

A graduate assistantship is awarded to graduate students who provide teaching or research support to the University. In recognition of this support, tuition fees are waived, and a stipend is provided. Appointments are made by semester. The assistantships may or may not be related to the student's research project.

The holder of a full assistantship devotes one-half of available time to studies and the other half (twenty hours per week) to assistantship duties, whereas the holder of a half assistantship devotes three-quarters of available time to studies and one-quarter (10 hours per week) to assistantship duties (GC).

The graduate student is responsible for paying the associated fees. The student can request enrollment in GA payroll deductions.

Because of the added workload associated with their assistantship duties, graduate assistants ordinarily take fewer than the usual number of courses per year. Also, because graduate assistants divide their full-time efforts between study and assistantship responsibilities, they may not hold concurrent employment outside the University without the written consent of their Major Advisor (GC).

Summer salary will depend on the availability of funds of the Major Advisor.

Scholarships

A few departmental scholarship (Burr, Yo Bigelow, Bishop-Carder Scholarships) are awarded to graduate students to pursue their academic programs but do not require those students to provide any teaching or research support to the institution. The tuition of a student receiving a scholarship must be paid by the student, the granting organization, the department and/or school/college, or by the University, with prior approval.

Scholarship information is usually forwarded via e-mail to the Graduate Faculty Members in the Department in May.

Conferral

Degree conferral requires that all requirements for the degree have been completed satisfactorily by the deadline specified on the Academic Calendar. Degrees are conferred three times each year: in August, December, and May. However, graduate commencement ceremonies are only held once per year in May. Students who qualify for degree conferral receive their diplomas by mail, normally within three months following conferral (GC).

Full-time vs. Part-time Status

A student may be classified as a full-time student in one of three ways: (1) enroll in nine or more credits (coursework or research); (2) enroll in six or more credits of coursework while holding a graduate assistantship (50 percent or greater); or (3) enroll in one of the following four special-purpose three-credit courses: GRAD 5960 (Full-Time Master's Research), GRAD 6960 (Full-Time Doctoral Research), GRAD 5930 (Master's Level Directed Studies), and GRAD 6930 (Doctoral Level Directed Studies). The former two courses may be taken by students who have

completed all requirements for their respective degrees except the research component and who have no other obligations at the university (i.e., no other coursework and no graduate assistantship). The latter two courses denote a full-time, off-campus directed project, such as an internship, fieldwork, or other special activity.

Students holding graduate assistantships must register for six or more credits per semester. Such students are considered to be full-time students. Students in GRAD 5930 or 6930 may hold graduate assistantships if those assistantships are in direct support of their studies. Such assistantships may not be a standard teaching assistantship.

A part-time course credit load is between 1 and 8.99 credits. To be classified as three-quarter time, the student's course credit load must be greater than six but less than nine credits per semester. To be classified as half time, the student's course credit load must be between 4.5 and 5.99 credits per semester. A credit load of fewer than 4.5 credits per semester is considered less than half the time (GC).

The renewal of the appointment in each semester will depend on the enrollment of 6 credits or more for graduate students with assistantships.

Facilities

Storrs campus

The Young Building (YNG): Landscape Architecture program, PSLA faculty offices and laboratories, administrative offices, graduate student offices, classrooms, studios, modeling lab with laser cutter, 3d printer.

The Agricultural Biotechnology Laboratory (ABL): PSLA faculty offices and laboratories, graduate student offices, classrooms.

The Advanced Technology Laboratory (ATL): a climate-controlled greenhouse, classrooms.

The Floriculture Greenhouse (FG) includes six greenhouses for teaching, research, and production.

Plant Science Research and Education

Facilities: research fields, teaching classrooms; the Hicks-Burr teaching nursery; greenhouses; and barns and buildings.

Ratcliffe Hicks Building and Arena (RHBA): Home and Garden Education Center, classrooms and arena used for student clubs.

Depot campus

Soil Nutrient Analysis Lab (SNAL): offers a variety of services to the public and the University including soil testing and fertilizer recommendations; analyzes research samples for University faculty and graduate students.

Transgenic Plant Facility: faculty offices laboratories, and greenhouses.

Housing

On-campus housing for graduate students enrolled at the Storrs campus is available at Northwood Apartments:

<https://reslife.uconn.edu/graduate-housing/>

UConn Housing, Rentals, Subleasing, and Roommates is a group dedicated to helping the undergraduate and graduate student population at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, find places to live:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/222678868480339>

You can also find off-campus housing and roommates near your UConn campus

through
<https://offcampushousing.uconn.edu/>

Health and dental insurance

All full-time students are required to maintain health coverage. Full-time students are automatically enrolled in and billed for the University-sponsored plan. If you wish to decline the university plan because you have existing comparable coverage, you must waive it via the Health Insurance Waiver in Student Admin. Learn more about the University-sponsored plan and the waiver process here:

<https://shs.uconn.edu/insurance-information/>

If you are a graduate assistant, you will have the option to enroll in the Connecticut Partnership Plan. Enrollment will be available after the start date of your appointment (noted in your graduate assistantship offer letter) and you will have 31 days from that date to enroll or waive coverage. More information about this plan can be found here:

<https://hr.uconn.edu/ga-health-insurance/>

Departmental Resources

Desk Assignments and Keys. The Department has several graduate students offices located in the W.B.Young and ABL buildings, and at the Depot Campus. The departmental secretary or building manager assigns a desk and provides keys to access the building for each graduate student.

Office Supplies and Copy Machine. Some office supplies and a copy machine are available to graduate students for activities associated with research and teaching. Ask the departmental secretary for details.

Mail. Upon arrival, there will be a mailbox assigned to you. Mailboxes are in W.B.Young Bldg. Room 122.

Travel. Graduate students are encouraged to participate in national and regional scientific meetings and industry-oriented conferences. Some limited funds for travel are available through the departmental graduate travel grant. The funds are intended to be used for travel to meetings at which the student is presenting their research. You may ask your Major Advisor if any possibility exist to complement these funds for your attendance of a scientific meeting. Also, The Graduate School awards a limited number of Doctoral Student Travel Fellowship awards in the amount of \$750 for doctoral students

<https://grad.uconn.edu/financing/fellowships/travel-fellowship/>.

Departmental seminars. Departmental seminars are scheduled weekly. Graduate and undergraduate students, faculty/staff members are advised to attend.

Special Events. Several departmental events occur throughout the year, for example, the Ice Cream social. Our graduate students are invited to participate in all of them.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Master of Science Plan A

The degree requirements consist of courses, the seminar requirement, and a thesis.

To receive a M.S. degree, you must:

1. Satisfactorily complete a minimum of 30 credit hours of coursework related to the student's professional interest, as agreed upon with the Advisory Committee and documented in the Plan of Study. It includes no less than 21 credits of advanced coursework and no less than nine additional credits of Master's Thesis Research (GRAD 5950: Master's Thesis Research or GRAD 5960: Full-Time Master's Research). Coursework and credits required for the MS

are determined by the student's Advisory Committee.

Please note while The Graduate School has no specific course requirements the suggested courses should provide the best training for your future needs and be tailored to student's individual needs.

The coursework shall consist largely of courses at the 5000 level or above. PLSC5899 Independent Study may be included in a graduate degree Plan of Study (the number of credits is up to the advisor). A limited number of credits at the 3000 or 4000 levels (not more than six) may be included in a graduate degree Plan of Study if approved by your Advisory Committee.

2. Register for GRAD 5950 or GRAD 5960 after the first semester of study. The number of credit hours should be discussed with the Major Advisor beforehand.
3. Form the Advisory Committee before completion of 12 credits of degree program coursework.
4. Enroll in one seminar course PLSC 5897.
5. When preparing to graduate, check the published deadlines for the appropriate conferral period for the degree to be granted with that conferral date at the Graduate School website.

The formal application for a degree to be conferred must be filed online using the Student Administration System within the first four weeks of the student's final semester (GC).

6. Submit the Plan of Study (<https://registrar.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/1604/2017/10/Plan-of-Study-Masters.pdf>) to the Office of the Registrar by the end of the fourth week of the student's final semester before degree completion.
7. The successful completion of all work indicated on the Plan of Study is a

fundamental prerequisite for the conferring of the degree. A student should earn a minimum grade point average of 3.0 (GC).

8. Submit a thesis based on a research project at the end of the graduate study.
9. Pass the Final Examination, or Thesis Defense, and submit the Report on the Final Examination for the Master's Degree to the Office of the Registrar.

A Thesis Defense must be announced two weeks before defending in the department. Ask the departmental secretary to make this announcement and distribute your abstract.

10. The student must present a publicly announced Exit Seminar to the Department on the thesis topic, which is considered part of the Thesis defense. The exit seminar should be scheduled one hour before the Thesis Defense. It is recommended the student defend the thesis at least two weeks before the deadline (see Academic Calendar) to allow for revisions of the thesis. Missing the deadline will delay graduation until the following semester and students will have to reapply for graduation.

11. Submit a thesis to the OpenCommons@UConn, a University repository for public access. Be aware that submission via Open Commons (<https://opencommons.uconn.edu/dissertations/guidelines.html>) does not mean that the document has been ACCEPTED. The final approval can be delayed if revisions are necessary. The document should be APPROVED on or before the target date for that semester in order to graduate.

Complete the degree within six years of admission. Ordinarily, the master's degree should be completed within three years, and finishing in two to three years is the norm.

Procedures of the Final Examination for Plan A:

The contents of the Final Examination are under the jurisdiction of the Advisory Committee. It may be separate from the Thesis Defense or combined with the Thesis Defense. If separate, it would follow the same procedures as for the Ph.D. General Examination discussed below.

Bring the "Report on the Final Examination for the Master's Degree" form for signatures to the exam.

<https://registrar.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/1604/2017/08/Report-on-Final-Exam-Masters.pdf>

Thesis. At the end of the graduate study, a student must submit an acceptable thesis based on a research project. The thesis must be approved by the student's Major Advisor, and considered to be in final form before it is distributed to the Advisory Committee.

The Advisory Committee must approve the topic and scope of the thesis and, upon its completion, ascertain that it represents an independent investigation. The thesis must be acceptable in literary style and organization (GC).

Students are expected to publish their research findings. Publications will improve your chances to find a job and enhance the reputation of our Department. Publishing is important for the broader dissemination of your work, as many people will read publications in professional journals.

It is recommended to organize your Thesis accordingly to allow for easy formatting of the chapters into manuscripts. Conversely, if manuscripts are already published they become your chapters. Discuss the Thesis structure with your Major Advisor at the beginning of your graduate study.

The unbound thesis or a digital copy, as preferred by the Advisory Committee members, should be distributed at least two weeks before the oral Final Examination, or Thesis Defense, to all Advisory Committee members. After the student has passed the Final Examination, the Advisory Committee may require modifications to the thesis. The student should allow enough time for incorporation of changes before presenting it to the Major Advisor for final review. Members of the Advisory Committee can insist on a second review of the thesis and/or Thesis defense. You should also prepare a Master's Plan A Thesis Submission Checklist form (<https://registrar.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/1604/2017/10/Masters-Plan-A-Thesis-Submission-Checklist.pdf>).

Master of Science Plan A Major Milestones:

Year 1	<p>Start the research project</p> <p>Enroll in the coursework</p> <p>Choose the Advisory Committee</p>
Year 2	<p>Continue the research project</p> <p>Enroll in PLSC 5897</p> <p>Complete the coursework</p>
Preparing to graduate	<p>Submit the Plan of Study to the Graduate School</p> <p>Schedule the Final Examination and Exit Seminar</p> <p>Distribute the thesis to the Advisory Committee</p> <p>Pass the Final Examination</p> <p>Submit the revised thesis and the paperwork to The Graduate School</p>

Master of Science Plan B

Plan B Non-thesis option consists of additional coursework beyond Plan A. To graduate, you must:

1. Satisfactorily complete a minimum of 30 credit hours of graduate coursework related to the candidate's professional interest. None of these credits may be research credits. Most of these courses should be selected in specialized fields to provide the candidate with advanced training in the following areas: Agronomy, Horticulture, Landscape Architecture, Plant Breeding, Plant Environment, Soil Science, and Soil Chemistry, or other acceptable areas. Some credits of course work approved by the Advisory Committee may be selected from outside the Department.
2. The Advisory Committee may require the student to take other courses with or without graduate credit, depending on the student's objectives and previous preparation (GC).
3. A comprehensive Final Examination is required.
4. The Advisory Committee may require some research experience. The way to obtain this experience is to arrange a Topics in Plant Science (PLSC 5898) or Independent Study (PLSC 5899) course with a faculty member with appropriate interests.

Procedures of the Final Examination for Plan B:

The contents of the Final Examination are under the jurisdiction of the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee has the discretion to determine whether the examination shall be written, oral, or both. Invitation to participate in an oral examination is issued by the Advisory Committee, although members of the faculty may attend. Under the Non-Thesis plan B,

the examination shall be comprehensive and designed to assess the candidate's mastery of the field and ability to integrate the knowledge acquired (GC).

Bring the "Report on the Final Examination for the Master's Degree" form for signatures to the exam.

<https://registrar.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/1604/2017/08/Report-on-Final-Exam-Masters.pdf>

Master of Science Plan B Major Milestones:

Year 1	Enroll in the coursework Choose the Advisory Committee
Year 2	Complete the coursework
Preparing to graduate	Submit the Plan of Study to the Graduate School Schedule the Final Examination Pass the Final Examination Submit the paperwork to The Graduate School

Ph.D.

The degree requirements consist of courses, two seminar requirements, Ph.D. General Examination and a Dissertation. To graduate, you must:

1. Satisfactorily complete a minimum of 30 credits of content coursework beyond the baccalaureate, or its equivalent, or at least 15 credits of content coursework beyond the master's degree. The suggested courses should provide the best training for future needs and are tailored to the student's individual needs (GC).
 - a. The coursework shall consist largely of courses at the 5000 level or above. A limited number of credits at the 3000 or 4000 levels (not more than six) may be included in a graduate degree plan of study. Undergraduate, below 5000- level courses, are applicable only if required by the Advisory Committee (GC).
 - b. Register for GRAD 6950 (Doctoral Dissertation Research) or GRAD 6960 (Full-Time Doctoral Dissertation Research) after the first semester of study. Credit hours may vary and should be discussed with the Major Advisor. The Plan of Study for a Ph.D. degree must include at least 15 credits of GRAD 6950 (Doctoral Dissertation Research) or GRAD 6960 (Full-Time Doctoral Dissertation Research) (GC).
 - c. A related area must comprise a coherent unit of at least six credit hours of advanced work outside the field of study (or area of concentration) and usually outside the Department (GC).
 - d. Enroll in two semesters of the seminar course PLSC 5897. One poster or oral presentation at a national or international professional meeting in your field of study may substitute for one PLSC 5897 seminar course requirement for Ph.D. degrees. Students who completed their

M.S. in our Department may enroll in one semester of PLSC 5897 and present at a professional meeting.

2. Form the Advisory Committee before completion of 12 credits of degree program coursework.
3. Complete and submit your Plan of Study for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (<https://registrar.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/1604/2019/02/Plan-of-Study-Doctor-Philosophy.pdf>) to the Office of the Registrar when not more than 18 credits of course work to be offered for the degree have been completed. The successful completion of all work indicated on the Plan of Study is a fundamental prerequisite for conferring the degree. A student should earn at least the minimum grade point average of 3.0.
4. Pass the Ph.D. General Examination, which is usually undertaken when the student has completed at least 75 percent of the content coursework listed on the approved Plan of Study. After the examination, the Report on the General Examination (<https://registrar.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/1604/2018/02/Report-on-General-Exam-Doctoral.pdf>), indicating the result of the entire examination must be signed by the members of the Advisory Committee and submitted to the Office of the Registrar no later than the date of the submission of the approved Dissertation Proposal. The report must be submitted whether or not the examination has been passed or failed (GC).
5. The Dissertation Proposal, bearing the signatures of the members of the student's Advisory Committee as well as the signature of the Department Head verifying satisfactory review by two reviewers who are not members of the Advisory Committee, should be submitted to the Office of the Registrar for final approval by the time the student has completed the ninth

credit of GRAD 6950 or 6960. In any event, the approved Dissertation Proposal (<https://registrar.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/1604/2018/02/Dissertation-Proposal-for-Doctoral-Degree.pdf>) must be on file in the Office of the Registrar before the public announcement of the Oral Defense of the dissertation (GC).

6. Upon approval of the Plan of Study, passing the General Examination, and approval of the Dissertation Proposal by the Executive Committee of The Graduate School, the student becomes a *Candidate* for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (GC).
7. **When preparing to graduate, check the published deadlines for the appropriate conferral period for the degree to be granted with your conferral date.** Formal application for a degree to be conferred must be filed online by the degree candidate using the Student Administration System within the first four weeks of the student's final semester (GC).
8. Candidates must distribute a complete and formatted copy of their dissertation (see p.10), to the members of the Advisory Committee at least two weeks before the Final Examination.
9. The Final Examination must be announced publicly using the University's online Events Calendar in the Daily Digest at least two weeks before the date of the defense.
10. Pass the Final Examination (Oral Defense of the dissertation). At this time, electronic tentative approval of the dissertation and an electronic working copy of the entire dissertation must be filed with the Office of the Registrar (<https://registrar.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/1604/2018/03/Dissertation-Tentative-Approval-Page.pdf>). Not fewer than five members of the faculty, including all members of the candidate's Advisory Committee, must participate in the

Final Examination (GC). Some members of the Advisory Committee may participate remotely via videoconference in the Final Examination. The exit seminar should be scheduled one hour before the Oral Defense.

11. Submit a dissertation through OpenCommons@UConn, a University repository for public access. The final copy must meet all specifications outlined on the Office of the Registrar's website. Be aware that submission via Open Commons (<https://opencommons.uconn.edu/dissertations/guidelines.html>) does not mean that the document has been ACCEPTED. The final approval can be delayed if revisions are necessary. The document should be APPROVED on or before the target date for that semester in order to graduate. The Dissertation Submission Checklist (<https://registrar.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/1604/2019/02/Dissertation-Submission-Checklist.pdf>) must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar with the Dissertation approval page bearing original signatures of all members of the Advisory Committee.

Complete the degree within eight years of admission. Ordinarily, the Ph.D. degree should be completed within four or six years.

Procedures for the Ph.D. General Examination

The General Examination is under the jurisdiction of the student's Advisory Committee.

The Ph.D. General Examination should be comprehensive and designed to assess the student's general knowledge in their field of study, not merely in an area of their specialization. The questions may be of specific factual nature, as well as address your ability to integrate and synthesize knowledge to solve problems.

Preparation for the exam: You should discuss examination expectations of each member of the Advisory Committee a few months in advance of the General Examination and to ask about the exam format and the topics to be covered. During this conversation, you may provide a list of courses, which were taken during your graduate study.

The examination may consist of a series of cumulative examinations, to be taken at intervals over the student's period of study. For practical purposes, the final part of such a series shall be regarded as "the General Examination" (GC).

Not fewer than five faculty members, including all members of the student's Advisory Committee, must participate in the examination, and all members of the Advisory Committee must participate in any oral examination. Some members of the Advisory Committee may participate remotely via videoconference in the oral portion of the General Examination. The Examining Committee includes at least one faculty member representing each of the major areas addressed in the examination. All Examiners are invited to submit questions and to evaluate answers, but the final decision as to whether or not the student has passed the General Examination shall rest solely with the Advisory Committee (GC).

If the student does not pass any of the exams given by the Advisory Committee members, then the student may retake any failed portions of the exams. The number of times this exam can be retaken is decided by the Advisory Committee members, although twice is the common limit. Note that, in the end, the student **MUST** pass all exams given by each and all of the Advisory Committee members.

The General Examination consists of written and oral portions of the exam, which cannot be the same as the dissertation or portions thereof:

1. The written portion of the exam is coordinated by the Major Advisor. The

Advisory Committee members write the questions. Each Advisory Committee member writes their own set of questions, and they also grade the answers given to their set of questions. They each also specify the time allowed to answer their questions and the materials that can be used or not used (e.g., 2-hour limit, closed book, closed internet, SAS software allowed).

2. The oral portion of the exam should be comprehensive in scope. A minimum of 2-hours should be scheduled, though there is no time limit. The oral exam or field exam is given by the Examining Committee members who are reminded that this is a doctoral exam. If desired, the student's Advisory Committee can request that this oral exam be combined with the written exam noted above. That is, this oral exam can be a follow-up to the written exam described above and is often used for clarification of marginally written answers, rather than having any student fail outright.

Bring the "Report on the General Examination for the Doctoral Degree" form for signatures to the exam

<https://registrar.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/1604/2018/02/Report-on-General-Exam-Doctoral.pdf>

Dissertation Proposal

The Dissertation Proposal should be prepared in consultation with the members of the Advisory Committee before the research is well underway. When the Dissertation Proposal has been completed and signed by the student and approved by the members of the Advisory Committee, the Dissertation Proposal then is submitted to the Head of the Department. The Department Head appoints reviewers from outside the Advisory Committee to conduct a critical evaluation of the Dissertation Proposal. Dissertation Proposals are reviewed with the following questions in mind:

1. Is the proposal well written, well organized, and well-argued?
2. Does the proposal describe a project of appropriate scope?
3. Does the student demonstrate knowledge of the subject and an understanding of the proposed method of investigation?
4. Does the student show awareness of the relevant research by others?
5. Does the student consider how the proposed investigation, if successful, will contribute to knowledge? (GC)

Dissertation

A dissertation representing a significant contribution to ongoing research in the candidate's field is a primary requirement for completion of the degree. The preparation of the dissertation is under the immediate and continuous supervision of the Advisory Committee, and it must meet all standards prescribed by the Advisory Committee and by The Graduate School. It must be acceptable in literary style and organization. Specifications for its preparation may be obtained from the Office of the Registrar's website. It is the student's ultimate responsibility to be certain that the dissertation conforms to the specifications (GC).

Students are expected to publish their research findings. Publications will improve your chances to find a job and enhance the reputation of our Department. Publishing is important for the broader dissemination of your work, as many people will read publications in professional journals.

It is recommended to organize your Dissertation accordingly to allow for easy formatting of the chapters into manuscripts. Conversely, if manuscripts are already published, they become your chapters. Discuss the Dissertation structure

with your Major Advisor at the beginning of your graduate study.

Teaching Requirement

Teaching experience is not required by the Department. However, for those students who are interested in careers in academia, opportunities exist to gain teaching experience by working as a teaching assistant or helping various faculty with extension projects.

Foreign Language Requirement

The Ph.D. in Plant Science does not have a related area or foreign language requirement.

**Doctor of Philosophy Major
Milestones:**

<p>Year 1</p>	<p>Start the research project</p> <p>Enroll in the coursework</p> <p>Choose the Advisory Committee</p>
<p>Year 2</p>	<p>Continue the research project</p> <p>Enroll in PLSC 5897</p> <p>Complete the coursework</p>
<p>Year 3</p>	<p>Submit the Plan of Study to the Graduate School</p> <p>Pass the Ph.D. General Examination</p> <p>Complete the departmental review of the Dissertation Proposal</p>
<p>Preparing to graduate</p>	<p>Enroll in PLSC 5897 or present at a professional meeting</p> <p>Schedule the Final Examination and Exit Seminar</p> <p>Distribute the dissertation to the Advisory Committee</p> <p>Pass the Final Examination</p> <p>Submit the revised dissertation and other documents to The Graduate School</p>