

University Requirements for Ph.D.

There are three fundamental requirements for the Ph.D. at Johns Hopkins University: **dissertation, residence, and oral examination**. None of these requirements can be modified or changed without unanimous consent of the schools and the Provost.

1. **Dissertation:** All Ph.D. students must successfully complete a dissertation in accordance with relevant school and program guidelines prior to degree conferral.
2. **Residence:** All Ph.D. students must have completed two consecutive semester of full-time study prior to degree conferral.ⁱ
3. **Oral Examination:** All Ph.D. students must successfully pass a required oral examination conducted by five faculty members. The oral examination must include the chair and at least one other member from outside the candidate's home department.

It is university policy that all program and university requirements for the Ph.D. must be completed in 9 years or less from start of the doctoral programⁱⁱ. The Doctor of Philosophy Board reviews all candidates for the Ph.D. prior to conferral to ensure that the fundamental requirements for the Ph.D. have been met within the timeframe delineatedⁱⁱⁱ.

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- i. In Fall 2020, the Board voted that as an accommodation for the special circumstances during COVID-19, the university's Doctor of Philosophy Board will deem any Ph.D. student enrolled full time in all of academic year 20/21 as having satisfied the residency requirement for the Ph.D.
 - ii. Maximum time to degree of 9 years becomes effective for students enrolled Fall 2019 or later. Students enrolled before Fall 2019 have a maximum time to degree of 12 years.
 - iii. In Spring 2020, the Board voted to accept any exceptions directly related to COVID-19 as endorsed and approved by the student's home school and academic board.