CHECKLIST for COMPLETION of DOCTORAL DEGREE

Planning Your Program of Study

 Work with your academic unit to form your committee and schedule the advisory conference. You will need to submit the Advisory Conference Report form (ACR) to the Graduate College no later than one semester before you plan to take the general examination.
  o You should consult your academic unit, since your program may have specific regulations or recommendations for scheduling the advisory conference.
  o If you are a graduate assistant receiving a Graduate College tuition waiver, in order to remain eligible for the waiver, you will need to submit this form after completing a certain number of hours at OU.

Before the General Examination

 If there are any changes to the coursework or committee membership listed on your approved ACR, you will need to submit a Request for Change in Doctoral Advisory Conference Report to the Graduate College before you apply for the general examination.
  o Your ACR must be up to date before the Graduate College can authorize your general examination.
  o Changes in committee membership are not permitted within the 30 calendar days before the general examination.

General Examination

 When you are enrolled in or have completed the final semester of coursework, you should prepare for the general examination. No later than the end of the second week of the semester in which you will take the exam, submit the General Exam Application for the Doctoral Degree to the Graduate College. After your application is approved, the Graduate College will email the Authority Report Form for the General Examination to you, your committee and your graduate liaison. You may not begin work for the exam until you receive the Authority Report Form.

 No later than 72 hours after the exam, submit the completed Authority Report Form, including original signatures from all committee members, to the Graduate College. You will be admitted to doctoral candidacy after satisfactorily completing the general examination.

Beginning Dissertation Research

 Once you begin enrolling in Research for Doctoral Dissertation (6980), you must enroll in a minimum of two credit hours of 6980 each fall and spring until all degree requirements are completed. (Summer enrollment is also required if you are working on the dissertation during summer; see the “Enrollment Requirements for Dissertation Research” section of the Graduate College Bulletin).

 Before you begin writing the dissertation, review the Thesis/Dissertation Instruction Packet. This packet contains important information about research-related issues and copyright, and explains the Graduate College formatting requirements for doctoral dissertations. If your dissertation research may involve human subjects research, vertebrate animal research, information that is protected from dissemination by applicable law or by contract, or intellectual property that may potentially be patentable, you should discuss this with your committee chair as early as possible in the research process.

Preparing to Graduate

 At the beginning of the semester you plan to graduate, apply for graduation online according to the deadlines indicated on the Academic Calendar. Contact the Graduation Office for information about attending college convocation ceremonies and May Commencement.
If there are any changes to the coursework or committee membership listed on your approved ACR, you will need to submit a Request for Change in Doctoral Advisory Conference Report to the Graduate College before you defend the dissertation.

- Your ACR must be up to date before the Graduate College can authorize your defense.
- Changes in committee membership are not permitted within the 30 calendar days before the dissertation defense.

Before scheduling your dissertation defense, provide each member of your committee with a complete draft of your dissertation (see the “Dissertation Draft” section of the Graduate College Bulletin). Your committee will determine how far in advance you should provide the draft. The committee should have sufficient time to review and approve the draft before you submit the Request for Authority for Dissertation Defense form to the Graduate College. After your committee has approved the draft, arrange the date, time and location for your defense.

- Optional: Print your complete draft and schedule an iAdvise appointment with the Graduate College for a formatting check. Although this is not required, it can help you avoid formatting errors in the final document.

Before Your Defense

- At least four weeks before your defense, submit the online Request for Degree Check to the Graduate College. The Graduate College will notify you of the result of the degree check via email.

- At least ten (10) working days before your defense, submit the Request for Authority for Dissertation Defense and any required attachments (if applicable) from the Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). After your request for authority is approved, the Graduate College will email the Authority Report Form for the Dissertation Defense to you, your committee and your graduate liaison. You are not authorized to defend until you receive the Authority Report Form.

After Your Defense

- No later than 72 hours after your defense, submit the completed Authority Report Form, including original signatures from all committee members, to the Graduate College.

- If your dissertation involves human subjects research, contact the IRB office to obtain documentation confirming that your involvement as a graduate student in the research project is officially terminated. You will need to submit this additional documentation to the Graduate College at the time you submit the final dissertation.

- Make an appointment through the iAdvise system to submit your dissertation. One (1) unbound copy of your dissertation is due in the Graduate College no later than 60 calendar days after your defense. If you plan to graduate in a particular semester, you must meet the semester submission deadline given on the Academic Calendar, usually the last day of the final examination period.
  - If your major is geology or geophysics, you will submit two (2) printed copies of your dissertation.
  - The final dissertation must be printed single-sided on white, 20- to 24-pound weight, watermarked, 100 percent cotton paper.
  - At the time you submit your final dissertation, you must also print, complete and submit the Entry Form for Dissertation Title on Student’s Academic Record and the Certificate of Completion of the Survey of Earned Doctorates Questionnaire to the Graduate College.

- Submit your dissertation electronically to the SHAREOK institutional repository, according to the instructions you received in the Graduate College email authorizing your defense.
  - The electronic submission is due by the same deadline as the print submission.
  - The electronic dissertation must be identical to the final printed dissertation, with the exception that it should not include committee signatures.

Congratulations!