

**Microbiology and Immunology Department**  
**PhD Student Action Plan**  
**Deadlines Entering Class 2024**

<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Action</b>
Rotation 1: September 23 – November 15, 2024 Rotation 2: January 6 – February 28, 2025 Rotation 3: March 10 – May 2, 2025 (1st and 2nd semesters of Year 1)	Laboratory rotations (3 different rotations, 4th rotation optional)
April 28 to May 9, 2025 (1st year of study, end of 2nd Semester)	Select Research Advisor (subject to approval by Department Chair)
November 3, 2025 (2nd year of study, 1st semester)	Submit title and specific aims of Dissertation Proposal.
December 1, 2025 (2nd year of study, 1st semester)	Dissertation Committee formed.
December 2025 (2nd year of study, 1st semester)	Meet with Curriculum Committee for instructions regarding Qualifying Exam
January 5, 2026 (2nd year of study, 2nd semester)	Submit title and specific aims of Qualifying Exam Proposal (subject to approval by Curriculum Committee)
January 16, 2026	Students informed of acceptability of their proposals.
March 6, 2026	Qualifying Exam proposals must be submitted
March 9 – April 17, 2026 (Qualifying exams must be given to Qualifying Exam Committee at least 1 week prior to Oral Exam)	Qualifying Oral Exam must be completed. Students who have not passed Qualifying exams after 2 attempts must withdraw from Program. Students who have received a “Pass” for both written and oral will enter Ph.D. Candidacy after completing all coursework.
October 9, 2026 (3 <sup>rd</sup> year of study)	Dissertation research proposal submitted to Dissertation Committee for review
December 1, 2026 (3 <sup>rd</sup> year of study)	Final dissertation research proposal submitted to Department
Annually after admission to Ph.D. Candidacy	Presentation of seminar based on dissertation research to department; Dissertation Committee Meeting 1 <sup>st</sup> seminar must be given in Fall semester of Year 3.
2 Weeks Before Defense (oral exam)	Provide complete unbound copy of dissertation to Dissertation Committee members and written request to the Graduate School Dean.
Deadlines Published by Graduate School: <a href="https://louisville.edu/graduate/current-students/thesis-dissertation-information/thesis-dissertation-information">https://louisville.edu/graduate/current-students/thesis-dissertation-information/thesis-dissertation-information</a>	Student must deliver dissertation to Graduate School and complete degree application.