Graduate Program Overview

The Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture (PSLA) directs the graduate program in Plant Science (PLSC). The program’s faculty provide training in a wide variety of plant science related disciplines including functional genomics and molecular physiology, plant conservation biology and ecology, plant protection and management and landscape management. The program offers graduate study leading to the Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees.

The objectives of the Plant Science graduate program are as follows:

1. Assist students in developing scholarship of plant science sufficient to allow them to make professional contributions and to be leaders in plant sciences, management and in the plant-based industries.
2. Advance knowledge in plant sciences critical to improving the efficiency, profitability and sustainability of global and national agricultural and natural resources.
3. Provide students with the skills in analyzing and interpreting quantitative and qualitative information; using inductive and deductive reasoning; and communicating verbally and in writing.

The Department’s aspiration is to strengthen its position as a national leader in plant science graduate training. The Plant Science Graduate Program aims to establish a program focused on plant-based sciences and management along with application of research to help solve the pressing problems in agriculture, urban and natural ecosystems and plant conservation. The program advances graduate training and research at all levels of organization from the genomic and molecular level, to the whole organism, to agricultural systems and to natural and designed ecosystems.

Facilities and Special Resources

The majority of laboratory space and offices for faculty in the Department are located at the College Park Campus in the Plant Sciences Building and the Research Greenhouse Complex. Laboratories are equipped for chemical, biochemical, molecular, genomic and physiological research in plant science. Extensive controlled-environment facilities, a state-of-the-art greenhouse and a network of commodity-oriented field research farms (Western Maryland Research and Education Center, Keedysville MD; Central Maryland Research and Education Center, Beltsville MD, Clarksville MD, and Upper Marlboro MD; Turfgrass Research and Education Center, Beltsville MD; Wye Research and Education Center, Queenstown MD; Lower Eastern Shore Research and Education Center, Salisbury MD) provide a rich array of facilities and resources to the program.
Admission

Admission to the program requires a baccalaureate from an accredited college or university in the United States or the equivalent in a foreign country. Applicants are required to have a minimum B average (3.0 on a 4.0 scale) for all undergraduate courses. Applicants will have at least 16 credit hours of prior course work in science and mathematics that includes calculus, physics, organic chemistry, biochemistry, biology, genetics or statistics. Promising students lacking this general preparation may be provisionally admitted to the program and may be required to correct course work deficiencies within one year of enrollment. The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is required of all applicants to the Plant Science Graduate Program (PLSC).

The program’s admission committee, chaired by the Graduate Program Coordinator, reviews all applications to the Plant Science graduate program. The committee will assess the credentials (academic transcripts, GRE scores, letters of recommendation, and statement of personal goals) of each applicant and determine if the applicant is acceptable for full admission, acceptable for provisional admission or unacceptable for admission. For applicants acceptable for provisional admission the committee will determine the deficiencies or requirements that the student must meet upon subsequent enrollment. The Graduate Director will report to the faculty the recommendations of the admission committee and identify potential faculty to serve as research advisors. Admission is dependent on the availability of a faculty member in the proposed area of study who is willing to assume the responsibility of advising. Once a suitable research advisor is identified the Graduate Director notifies the Graduate School of the Department’s recommendation on admission status. Only the Graduate School can extend an offer of admission.

Financial Aid

A limited number of graduate teaching assistantships and research assistantships are available in the Department and are awarded to students on a competitive basis. Graduate assistants spend approximately 20 hours per week assisting with teaching or research activities in the Department. The remainder of their time is generally occupied by course work and thesis research. Appointments to research and teaching assistantships are for 12 and 10 months, respectively. The Department, however, will cover summer salary of all teaching assistants.

Advisement and Appointment of Advisory Committee

As soon as possible after admission to the graduate program, the graduate student should contact his or her Advisor to begin discussions regarding the plan of study and research. The Advisor, in consultation with the student is responsible for appointing an Advisory Committee.

Specific Responsibilities of the Advisor and Advisory Committee
1. Advisors are responsible for appointing an Advisory Committee for each entering graduate student. For Master of Science candidates this committee should consist of at least three faculty members, at least 2 must be Full or Regular members of the Graduate Faculty. For Ph.D. students the Advisory committee must consist of at least 5 faculty members, of which three must be Full or Regular members of the Graduate Faculty. In addition for Ph.D. students, the advisor must be a Full or Regular member of the Graduate Faculty. The names of the advisory committee must be submitted to the Graduate Director by the end of the second semester in the program. Upon approval by the Graduate Director it is the responsibility of the advisory committee to guide the student through the remainder of the graduate program.

2. The advisory committee will serve as the Ph.D. candidacy examination committee as well as the thesis or dissertation examination committee. Therefore, appointments must that comply with the Graduate School requirement for the composition of an examining committee.

3. Students must convene a meeting of the advisory committee at least once a year to report on their progress and accomplishments and the chair of the committee must provide a report of the committee’s views and recommendations to the Graduate Director. This report can also serve as the annual progress and accomplishment report.

4. The student must submit a written research proposal to the Graduate Director that includes a statement of objectives, brief literature review and a description of the experimental approach. The research proposal should be submitted to the Graduate Director by the end of the second semester of study for MS students and the end of the third semester of PhD students. A cover sheet signed by the student’s advisor and advisory committee indicating their approval of the research proposal must be attached when it is submitted. If the thesis or dissertation research involves the use of vertebrate animals, the campus Animal Care Use Committee must approve animal use protocols. If the research involves the use of human subjects, the campus Institutional Review Board must approve the research. Research that involves hazardous materials (biological and chemical) or recombinant RNA/DNA must be approved by the appropriate university committee. It is the responsibility of the student and their advisor to obtain the appropriate approvals.

**Review of Student Progress and Accomplishments**

Progress of every student will be evaluated at the end of each spring semester. The advisor, in consultation with the student and the advisory committee, is required to submit an Annual Progress and Accomplishment Evaluation to the Graduate Director. Both the Advisor and Student must sign this evaluation. Each student’s progress will be reviewed by the Graduate Director and the Department Graduate Committee between the spring and fall semesters. Factors considered in the review include the Annual Progress Evaluation report, cumulative grade point average in
graduate level courses, completion of deficiencies or remedial coursework, completion of requirements specified by the advisor or advisory committee, and progress towards appropriate program benchmarks (plan of study, research proposal, candidacy examination). Upon completion of the review, the committee may make the following recommendations to the Graduate Director:

1. Retention—for students who are making satisfactory progress
2. Probation—for students who are not making satisfactory progress
3. Dismissal—for students who are not making satisfactory progress and have not fulfilled the Program requirements for retention.

The Graduate Director will notify the students in writing of their status. For students recommended for Probation, the Graduate Director, in conjunction with the Advisor, will specify the conditions required for retention. Students will then have one year to satisfy these requirements. Students may appeal probation and dismissal recommendations in writing within 10 working days of receipt of the recommendation to the Chairman of the Department.

**Degree Requirements**

**Master of Science Degree (thesis option)**

**Course Requirements:** A program of study approved by the advisor must be completed prior to the second semester of enrollment. This plan must be filed with the Graduate Director. The program requires a minimum of 30 semester hours of course work beyond the B.S. degree, including 6 hours of thesis research credits (799). A minimum of 12 credits hours must be earned in course-work at the 600 level or higher. **Students are required to complete 2 semester hours of PLSC 608, Research Methods and 2 semester hours of PLSC 789, Advances in Research.** Students must also complete one semester each of 400-level (or higher) biochemistry, plant physiology, and statistics which may be completed as part of a B.S. or M.S. degree program.

**Thesis Requirement:** A thesis must be submitted to the Graduate School. This thesis is approved by the Thesis Examining Committee appointed by the Dean of the Graduate School upon recommendation of the student’s advisor. The advisor serves as the chairperson of the examining committee and the student’s advisory committee typically serves as members of the examining committee. Committee membership must comply with Graduate School requirements. The submitted thesis must comply with the University of Maryland Thesis and Dissertation Style Guide.

**Thesis Research:** It is the responsibility of the Advisor and Student to ensure that all University Research Assurances are followed. Research involving human subjects must be approved in advance by the Institutional Review Board (IRB). Research involving the use of vertebrate animals must be approved in advance by the Animal Care and Use Committee. Research using hazardous materials (chemical or biological), recombinant RNA/DNA must be approved in advance by the appropriate University committee.
Master Thesis Examination:
1. Eligibility. A student is eligible to be examined on a thesis if (a) the student has completed the thesis to the satisfaction of the advisor, (b) is in good standing with the University, (c) has met all program requirements for an examination, (d) is registered for at least one credit, (e) has a least a 3.0 grade point average, (f) has a valid Graduate School-approved Thesis Examining Committee, and (g) if this is the second defense, the defense has been approved by the Graduate School.

2. Thesis Examining Committee Membership. The committee must consist of at least three members of the Graduate Faculty, at least two of whom are Full Members. The Committee Chair normally will be the student’s advisor who is a Full Member of the Graduate Faculty or, by special permission, has been otherwise appointed by the Dean of the Graduate School.

3. Nomination of Thesis Examining Committee. Membership of a Thesis examining committee requires nomination by the student’s advisor and the Graduate Director of the Program and approval of the Dean of the Graduate School. The Thesis Examining Committee must be nominated at least 6 weeks prior to the date of the expected thesis examination. The thesis examination cannot be held until the Graduate School approves the composition of the examining committee. Furthermore, if the Graduate Faculty status of any member of an approved Thesis Examining Committee changes, the approval of the Thesis Examining Committee may be voided, and a new Committee nomination form may be required for approval by the Graduate School.

4. Chair. The Thesis Examining Committee will have as chair the student's advisor, who must be a Full or Adjunct Member of the Graduate Faculty or, by special permission, has been otherwise appointed by the Dean of the Graduate School. Thesis Examining Committees may have co-chairs upon the written recommendation of the Graduate Director and with the approval of the Dean of the Graduate School.

Procedures for the Oral Examination:
1. Oral Examination Requirement. Each master's thesis student must orally defend his or her master's thesis as a requirement in partial fulfillment of the master's degree.

2. Committee Preparation. The members of the Thesis Examining Committee must receive the thesis at least seven working days before the scheduled examination. Should the Thesis Examining Committee deem it reasonable and appropriate, it may require submission of the thesis more than seven working days in advance of the examination.

3. Attendance at the Examination. Oral examinations must be attended by all members of the student's officially established Thesis Examining Committee as approved by the Dean of the Graduate School. All examinations must be open to members of University of Maryland Graduate Faculty. Should a last-minute change in the constitution of the Thesis Examining Committee be required, the Dean of the Graduate School in consultation with the program’s Graduate Director and the chair of the student’s Thesis Examining Committee must approve the change.
4. Remote Participation in Examinations. The Graduate School policy is that all members of a Thesis Examining Committee must be physically present in the examination room during the entire defense and during the committee's private deliberations following the examination. Participation by telephone is not permitted under any circumstances. While re-affirming this policy, the Graduate Council approved a policy to permit remote participation by video teleconferencing under the following circumstances:

A. Permission to conduct a remote-participation defense must be obtained by the thesis chair from the Graduate School in advance. In making this request, the chair must indicate in writing that he or she has read the rules for a remote defense listed below.
B. A competent video technician must be present at both the University site and the remote location for the entire duration of the defense in the event that technical difficulties arise.
C. Only one remote site may be used during the defense.
D. The candidate and the committee chair must both be present in the examination room. Neither may be at the remote site.
E. The department/program must pay for all of the costs of the video teleconferencing arrangements.

5. Location of the Examination. Oral examinations of theses must be held in University facilities that are readily accessible to all members of the Thesis Examining Committee and others attending the examination. The chair of the Thesis Examining Committee selects the time and place for the examination and notifies the other members of the committee and the candidate.

6. Invalidation of the Examination. The Dean may void any examination not carried out in accordance with the procedures and policies of the Graduate School. In addition, upon the recommendation of the Thesis Examining Committee or any member thereof, the Dean of the Graduate School may rule an oral examination to be null and void.

7. Conclusion of the Examination. After the oral examination, the student and any others who are not members of the Thesis Examining Committee will be asked to leave the room and the Thesis Examining Committee will discuss whether or not the thesis (including its examination) has been satisfactory.

8. The Committee has the following options:

A. To accept the thesis without any recommended changes and sign the Report of Examining Committee.
B. To accept the thesis with recommendations for changes and, except for the chair, sign the Report of Examining Committee. The chair will check the thesis and, upon his or her approval, sign the Report of Examining Committee.
C. To recommend revisions to the thesis and not sign the Report of Examining Committee until the student has made the changes and submitted the revised thesis for the Thesis Examining Committee's approval. The Thesis Examining Committee members sign the Report of Examining Committee when they approve the revised thesis.

D. To recommend revisions and convene a second meeting of the Thesis Examining Committee to review the thesis and complete the student's examination.

E. To rule the thesis (including its examination) unsatisfactory. In that circumstance, the student fails.

Following the examination, the chair must inform the student of the outcome of the examination. The chair signs the Report of the Examining Committee indicating which of the above alternatives has been adopted. A copy of this statement is to be included in the student's file at the graduate program office, and a copy is given to the student.

9. Passage or Failure. The student passes if all members of the Thesis Examining Committee accept the thesis (including its examination) as satisfactory. One or more negative votes constitute a failure of the candidate to meet the thesis requirement. In cases of failure, the Thesis Examining Committee must specify in detail and in writing the nature of the deficiencies in the thesis and/or the oral performance that led to failure. This statement is to be submitted to the program's Graduate Director, the Dean of the Graduate School, and the student. A second examination may be permitted if the student will be in good standing at the time of the proposed second examination. A second examination requires the approval of the program's Graduate Director and the Dean of the Graduate School. If the student fails this second examination, or if a second examination is not permitted, the student's admission to the graduate program is terminated.

10. The Decision to Accept the Examination as Satisfactory Must Be Unanimous. Students may present themselves for examination only twice. The report of the committee, signed by each member, must be submitted to the Dean of the Graduate School no later than the appropriate date listed in the Schedule of Classes if the student is to receive a diploma at the Commencement ceremony for the semester in which the examination is held.

**Submission and Publication of the Thesis**
Theses are to be submitted to the Graduate School in electronic format after final approval of the document by the Thesis Examining Committee. See the University of Maryland Thesis and Dissertation Style Guide (http://www.gradschool.umd.edu/etd) for the details of this process.
Doctor of Philosophy

Course Requirements: A program of study approved by the Advisor must be completed by the end of the third semester of enrollment. This plan must be filed with the Graduate Director. The Graduate School requires that every student seeking the Ph.D. satisfactorily complete a minimum of 12 semester hours of dissertation credits (899). **Students are required to complete 2 semester hours of PLSC 608, Research Methods and 2 semester hours of PLSC 789, Advances in Research. In addition students admitted to the PhD program that lack the MS degree must complete the course requirements of the MS degree (24 credit hours of coursework). Students must also complete** one semester each of 400-level (or higher) biochemistry, plant physiology, and statistics which may be completed as part of a B.S. or M.S. degree program and an additional graduate level course in biochemistry or statistics.

Admission to Candidacy: An oral qualifying examination must be completed satisfactorily before a student is admitted to candidacy. At the discretion of the advisor and advisory/examining committee a written exam may also be conducted. The examination must be attempted by the end of the fifth semester of study. Under extenuating circumstances and with written permission of the Program Director, this time frame may be extended. The examining committee corresponds to the student’s Advisory committee. To be eligible to take the candidacy examination, the student must have submitted a research proposal that to the student’s advisor and advisory committee prior to the formal qualifying examination. The completed proposal must be given to the committee at least two weeks before the scheduled date for the qualifying examination. The qualifying examination focuses principally on the written proposal. However, the student’s mastery of general knowledge of Plant Science may also be examined. At the end of the examination, all members of the committee vote on the student’s performance. Two negative votes constitute failure. Upon successful completion of the examination, the committee recommends to the Director that the student by admitted to candidacy based on satisfactory performance during the examination. It is the responsibility of the student to submit an application for admission to candidacy when all the requirements for candidacy have been fulfilled. Applications for admission to candidacy are made in duplicate by the student and submitted to the graduate program for further action and transmission to the Graduate School. Application forms may be obtained at the Graduate School, Room 2123, Lee Building, or on the web. Paperwork must be received by the Graduate School prior to the 25th of the month in order for the advancement to become effective the first day of the following month. Students failing the qualifying examination may be re-examined once within 6 months of the first examination date. Students may be re-examined only once. Failure to pass the qualifying examination a second time will result in termination of the student’s program.

Dissertation Requirement: A dissertation based on independent, original research must be submitted to the Program and the Graduate School. This dissertation is approved by the Dissertation Examining Committee appointed by the Dean of the Graduate School upon the recommendation of the student’s advisor. The advisor serves as the chairperson of the examining committee and the student’s advisory committee typically serve as members of the examining committee. Committee membership must comply with
Graduate School requirements for membership. The submitted dissertation must comply with the University of Maryland Thesis and Dissertation Style Guide.

Dissertation Research: It is the responsibility of the Advisor and Student to ensure that all University Research assurances are followed. Research involving human subjects must be approved in advance by the Institutional Review Board (IRB). Research involving the use of vertebrate animals must be approved in advance by the Animal Care and Use Committee. Research using hazardous materials (chemical or biological), recombinant RNA/DNA must be approved in advance by the appropriate University committee.

Doctoral Dissertation Examination:
1. Eligibility. A student is eligible to defend a dissertation if the student: (a) has advanced to candidacy, (b) has met all program requirements for a dissertation examination, (c) is in good standing as a graduate student at the University, (d) is registered for at least one credit, (e) has a valid Graduate School-approved Dissertation Examining Committee, and (f) if this is the second examination, the examination has been approved by the Graduate School.

2. Dissertation Examining Committee Membership. The Committee must include a minimum of five members of the Graduate Faculty, at least three of whom must be Full Members. The Chair of the Committee normally will be the student's advisor, who will be a Full Member of the Graduate Faculty, or who has been granted an exception to the policy by the Dean of the Graduate School. Each Committee will have appointed to it a representative of the Dean of the Graduate School.

3. Nomination of Dissertation Examining Committee. Membership on a Dissertation Examining Committee requires nomination by the student's advisor and the Graduate Director, and approval by the Dean of the Graduate School. Nomination should be provided to the Graduate School at least six weeks before the date of the expected dissertation examination. The dissertation examination cannot be held until the Graduate School approves the composition of the Dissertation Examining Committee. Furthermore, if the Graduate Faculty status of any member of an approved Dissertation Examining Committee changes, the approval of the Dissertation Examining Committee may be void, and a new Dissertation Examining Committee nomination form may be required to be approved by the Graduate School.

4. Chair. The Chair of Dissertation Examining Committee must be a Full Member of the Graduate Faculty or, by special permission, have been otherwise appointed by the Dean of the Graduate School. Dissertation Examining Committees may be co-chaired upon written recommendation of the Graduate Director and with the approval of the Dean of the Graduate School; at least one of the co-chairs must be a Full Member of the University of Maryland Graduate Faculty.

5. Representative of the Dean of the Graduate School. Each Dissertation Examining Committee will have appointed to it a representative of the Dean of the Graduate School.
The Dean's Representative should have some background or interest related to the student's research. The Dean's Representative must be a tenured member of the Graduate Faculty at the University of Maryland and must be from a graduate program other than the home program of the chair and co-chair (if one exists) of the examination committee.

6. Special Members. Individuals from outside the University of Maryland who have been approved for Special Membership in the Graduate Faculty may serve on Dissertation Examining Committees. These Special Members must be in addition to the required three Full Members of the University of Maryland Graduate Faculty.

7. Service of Former University of Maryland Faculty Members. Graduate Faculty who terminate employment at University of Maryland (and who do not have emeritus status) retain their status as members of the Graduate Faculty for a twelve-month period following their termination. Thus, they may serve as members and chairs (but not as Dean's Representatives) of Dissertation Examining Committees during this twelve-month period if they are otherwise eligible. After that time, they may no longer serve as chairs of Dissertation Examining Committees, although, if granted the status of Special Members of the Graduate Faculty, they may serve as co-chairs.

8. Service of Professors Emeriti and Associate Professors Emeriti. Professors Emeriti and Associate Professors Emeriti may serve on Dissertation Examining Committees provided they are members of the Graduate Faculty.

**Procedures for the Oral Examination:**

1. Oral Examination Requirement. Each doctoral candidate is required to orally defend his or her doctoral dissertation as a requirement in partial fulfillment of the doctoral degree.

2. Committee Preparation. The members of the Dissertation Examining Committee must receive the dissertation at least ten working days before the scheduled examination. Should the Dissertation Examining Committee deem it reasonable and appropriate, it may require submission of the dissertation more than ten working days in advance of the examination.

3. Attendance at the Examination. Oral examinations must be attended by all members of the student's officially established Dissertation Examining Committee as approved by the Dean of the Graduate School. All examinations must be open to all members of the University of Maryland Graduate Faculty. Should a last-minute change in the constitution of the Dissertation Examining Committee be required, the Dean of the Graduate School in consultation with the Graduate Director and the chair of the student’s Dissertation Examining Committee must approve the change.

4. Location of the Examination. Oral examinations must be held in University facilities that are readily accessible to all members of the Dissertation Examining Committee and others attending the examination. The chair of the dissertation examining committee selects the time and place for the examination.
5. The Dean's Representative. The Dean's Representative must be identified at the beginning of the examination. The responsibilities of the Dean's Representative include the following: ensuring that the procedures of the oral examination comply with those of the Graduate School and reporting to the Dean of the Graduate School any unusual problems experienced in the conduct of the examination.

6. Invalidation of the Examination. The Dean of the Graduate School may void any examination not carried out in accordance with the procedures and policies of the Graduate School. In addition, upon recommendation of the Dean's Representative, the Dean may rule an oral examination to be null and void.

7. Remote Participation in a Dissertation Defense. All members of a Dissertation Examining Committee must be physically present in the examination room during the entire dissertation defense and during the committee's private deliberations following the examination. Participation by telephone is not permitted under any circumstances. Remote participation by video teleconferencing is permitted under the following circumstances:

   A. Permission to conduct a remote-participation defense must be obtained by the dissertation chair from the Graduate School in advance. In making this request, the chair must indicate in writing that he/she has read the rules for a remote defense listed below.
   B. A competent video technician must be present at both the University site and the remote location for the entire duration of the defense in the event that technical difficulties arise.
   C. Only one remote site may be used during the defense.
   D. The candidate, the committee chair, and the Dean's Representative must all be present in the examination room. None of them may be at the remote site.
   E. The program must pay for all of the costs of the video teleconferencing arrangements.

8. Student Presentation. The student is permitted to present briefly a summary of the dissertation, emphasizing the important results and giving an explanation of the reasoning that led to the conclusions reached.

9. Opportunity for Questioning by Members of the Dissertation Examining Committee. The chair invites questions in turn from each member of the Dissertation Examining Committee. The questioning may continue as long as the Dissertation Examining Committee feels that it is necessary and reasonable for the proper examination of the student.

10. Conclusion of the Examination. After questioning has been completed, the student and any others who are not members of the Dissertation Examining Committee are asked to leave the room while the Dissertation Examining Committee discusses whether or not
the dissertation and its defense are satisfactory. The Committee has the following options:

A. To accept the dissertation without any recommended changes and sign the Report of Examining Committee.
B. To accept the dissertation with recommendations for changes and, except for the chair, sign the Report of the Examining Committee. The chair will check that the changes to the dissertation have been made, and, upon his or her approval, sign the Report of Examining Committee.
C. To recommend revisions to the dissertation and not sign the Report of Examining Committee until the student has made the changes and submitted the revised dissertation for the Dissertation Examining Committee's approval. The Dissertation Examining Committee members sign the Report of Examining Committee if they approve the revised dissertation.
D. To recommend revisions and convene a second meeting of the Dissertation Examining Committee to review the dissertation and complete the student's examination.
E. To rule the dissertation (including its examination) unsatisfactory. In that circumstance, the student fails. Following the examination, the chair, in the presence of the Dean's Representative, must inform the student of the outcome of the examination. The chair and the Dean's Representative both sign a Report of the Examining Committee indicating which of the above alternatives has been adopted. A copy of this statement is to be included in the student's file at the graduate program office, and a copy is given to the student.

11. Passage or Failure. The student passes if one member refuses to sign the Report, but the other members of the Dissertation Examining Committee agree to sign, before or after the approval of recommended changes. Two or more negative votes constitute a failure of the candidate to meet the dissertation requirement. In cases of failure, the Dissertation Examining Committee must specify in detail and in writing the nature of the deficiencies in the dissertation and/or the oral performance that led to failure. This statement is to be submitted to the Graduate Director, the Dean of the Graduate School, and the student. A second examination may be permitted if the student will be in good standing at the time of the proposed second examination. A second examination requires the approval of the Graduate Director and the Dean of the Graduate School. If the student fails this second examination, or if a second examination is not permitted, the student's admission to the graduate program is terminated.

Submission and Publication of the Dissertation
Dissertations are to be submitted to the Graduate School in electronic format after final approval of the dissertation by the Dissertation Examining Committee. See the University of Maryland Electronic Thesis and Dissertation (ETD) website at http://dissertations.umi.com/umd or the University of Maryland Thesis and Dissertation Style Guide (http://www.gradschool.umd.edu/publications) for the details of this process.
Student Benchmarks

The following table summarizes student benchmarks for both MS and PhD students:

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