Planetary Doctoral Student's Timeline to Graduation

Note: This timeline may be adjusted, as needed, for MS students in the Planetary Sciences Track.

Admission to UCF Physics Graduate Program -Planetary Sciences Track

Student is admitted to the PhD program in Physics - Planetary Sciences Track

Student attends
Orientation

Complete all requirements before the 1st day of class

Complete GTA Training

- when applicable

Complete New Hire Paperwork (as applicable for GRA/ GTA)

Register for classes

First Year Complete 24 CHs

(Core or Formal Electives – 18 or Research – 6)

AST XXXX — Refer to Handbook for a list of required Planetary Courses

AST 6918 - Directed Research

Meet with Track Director to Complete an Initial Plan of Study (Submit requests for transferring credit hours)

Student forms a
Supervisory
Committee and works
to passing the
Written/Candidacy
Exam by their 2nd year

(Refer to the Planetary

Handbook for additional

information)

Second Year Complete 24 CHs

(Core or Formal Electives 12 / Remaining Electives or Research 12)

Complete Academic Integrity Requirements

(prior to candidacy status)

Meet with advisor and/or Supervisory Committee as needed

Deadline to Pass the Written/Oral part of the Candidacy Exam (refer to the handbook for additional information. Complete all candidacy requirements by no later than the summer of the 3rd year in the program.)

Consider an Internship or other Summer research opportunity

Third Year

Complete Remaining Electives

Form a Dissertation Committee

Obtain Candidacy
Status

Final deadline to
Pass the Candidacy
Exam

Complete the Dissertation Proposal

immediately after passing the candidacy exam, or in a separate meeting not more than one semester there after.

Fourth Year+

Complete minimum

15 Doctoral Dissertation Hours

AST 7980

Continue to work on your research, but plan for defense

Meet at least once per year

with Advisor and the Doctoral Dissertation Committee

Consider an Internship or other Summer research opportunity Successfully Defend your Doctoral Dissertation

Job Search

Exit Interview

Meet at least once per year with Advisor and the Doctoral Dissertation Committee Graduate with a PhD in Physics -Planetary Sciences Track

(Students have 7 years from the time of Admission to complete their degree)*

* A 7-year Completion Plan is submitted by the student's 5th year in the program.

Graduate Students must at minimum:

- Maintain a GPA of 3.0 or above
- Attend 1-2 conferences and/or present their research work
- 1-2 publications (or accepted publications) in peer-reviewed journal by graduation

Effective SU20 - Students on Thesis or Dissertation must provide IRB Approval or "Not Human Subjects Research" letters.