BMS PhD Program Annual Milestones

First Year Students:

- complete the required course work with a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0
- match to a thesis lab/Major Professor
- choose supervisory committee (summer)
- begin regular participation in at least one Journal or Data Club
- attend seminars regularly offered by the Department of Biomedical Sciences, the College of medicine, and other relevant units (Biological Sciences, Neuroscience, Chemistry, etc)
- design Program of Studies in consultation with your Supervisory Committee (summer)
- begin research and explore dissertation project opportunities in assigned lab

Second Year Students:

- continue (and potentially complete) required course work, including elective courses
- regularly attend seminars
- regularly participate in Journal/Data Clubs as in Year 1
- make substantial progress in independent, collaborative research and defining a dissertation project
- schedule and complete the preliminary exam portion of the Qualifying Examinations (Part I)
- present second-year departmental seminar

Third Year Students:

- successful defense of the dissertation proposal (Part II of the Qualifying Examinations)
    - Admission to Candidacy
- enroll in dissertation hours for credit
- attend seminars and participate in Journal/Data Clubs
- make experimental progress to achieve the aims of the dissertation project and strive to submit a first-authored research manuscript for publication.

Years 4, 5 and beyond:

Handbook:

> "*While graduation within five years is encouraged, students are expected to complete their degree within six years unless there are extenuating circumstances, as financial support is not guaranteed beyond this point. Thus, in the spring of the fourth-year students will present a detailed timeline for completion of their degree at their annual GPC review. At the end of the fifth-year student progress and financial support will be reviewed by the Senior Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Programs*."

- give one or more research presentations (talk or poster) at a national scientific meeting
- submit additional data/manuscripts for publication
    - Students are expected to graduate with multiple published first-authored papers, co-authored papers, and review articles
- approximately one year before anticipated graduation, start making contacts in chosen area of interest (post-doctoral scientist, industry position, teaching position, etc.). The supervisory committee and GPC are excellent partners in helping students network and decide on appropriate lead times, which can be very different across different career paths and opportunities
- once a student is ready to defend their dissertation, supervisory committee must complete "Permission to Defend" form
- publicly defend the dissertation