1.8 DEGREE MILESTONES AND RECOMMENDED TIMELINE:

**MS Degree**

- Confirm advisor and funding plan: 3rd quarter
- Form committee and hold first meeting: 5th quarter
- Plan of study: 5th quarter
- Thesis proposal: 6th quarter
- Complete thesis/Final exam: 8th or 9th quarter

**Ph.D. Degree (New Degree)**

- Confirm advisor and funding plan: 3rd quarter
- Qualifying exam: Week following 3rd quarter
- Form committee and hold first meeting: 5th quarter
- Plan of study: 5th quarter
- Dissertation proposal: 8th quarter
- General Exam: 9th quarter
- Complete dissertation/Final exam: 16th quarter

**Ph.D. Degree (After Bypass)**

- Form committee and hold first meeting: 1st quarter after bypass
- Revised Plan of study: 1st quarter after bypass
- Dissertation proposal: 4th quarter after bypass
- General Exam: 5th quarter after bypass
- Complete dissertation/Final exam: 12th quarter after bypass

**Research Milestones**

The student’s advisory committee will have primary responsibility for judging whether the student is making satisfactory progress towards completion of their thesis or dissertation research. It is the student’s responsibility to update the committee on progress on research milestones, identify obstacles that have prevented achievement of research milestones, and plans to overcome them.

The student and academic committee will produce a research timeline with specific research milestones for each academic year. This will be done by completing annual reviews and research planning, which is comprised of the following steps:

1. The student will complete an annual activity report and self-evaluation each year in Autumn quarter.
2. The committee chair will evaluate the student’s research progress, and make a recommendation regarding the student’s research progress. (Satisfactory, Satisfactory but with reservations, not satisfactory).
3. The advisor and student will review these evaluations and agree to a research plan with milestones for the next academic year.
4. The advisor’s recommended evaluation of student progress will be shared with the advisory committee for approval. Approval can be done over e-mail or via an in-person meeting.

5. The outcome of the student-advisor / student-committee meeting will be shared with the QERM director. The QERM director and student will meet by the end of Autumn quarter to review plan and annual progress, and resolve disputes as necessary.