Key Milestones For Obtaining A PhD Degree in Biomedical Engineering
(minimum of 82 semester hours)

Note: Students are required to have at least 1 manuscript published/accepted/in press by a peer-reviewed Journal as part of the degree program

| 1st Semester (Spring) | 1. Register for courses (core and elective) courses  
2. Search and select a research mentor |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2nd Semester (Summer) | 1. Register for courses (core and elective) courses  
2. Continue to collect preliminary data for your proposed dissertation work |
| 3rd Semester (Fall)   | 1. Register for courses (core and elective) courses  
2. Begin discussion with your research mentor on your dissertation work  
3. Make necessary steps to take QE exam (Letter of Intent Due - Oct 15; Submit QE Proposal – Due Dec 1) |
| 4th Semester (Spring) | 1. Register for courses (core and elective) courses  
2. Take QE exam (One week before Spring semester begins – usually first week of January)  
3. Continue to collect preliminary data for your proposed dissertation work |
| 5th Semester (Fall)   | 1. Register for courses (core and elective) courses  
2. Continue to collect preliminary data for your proposed dissertation work  
3. Work with research mentor to select Dissertation Committee members  
4. Request written approval from the BME program for your thesis committee members and mentor selection  
5. Submit documentations to the Graduate School for approval of your thesis committee members and mentor &+  
6. Begin writing Dissertation proposal |
| 6th Semester (Spring) | 1. Register for courses (core and elective) courses  
2. Complete your written Dissertation proposal and submit to research committee members%  
3. Defend your Dissertation proposal*#  
4. Submit documentations to the Graduate School for admission to candidacy (approval of thesis by research committee members)  
5. Continue to collect data for your dissertation |
| 7th, 8th, etc Semesters| 1. Register for courses (core and elective) courses  
2. Continue to collect data for your dissertation |

2nd to Last Semester | 3. Register for courses (core and elective) courses  
4. Register for Doctoral Dissertation (BME 7991,2,3,6)**  
5. Continue and complete data collection for your dissertation work  
6. Begin writing your dissertation  
7. Submit and work with research mentor on draft dissertation  
8. Submit Program of Study to College of Engineering Dean’s Office/BME program office for approval |

Last Semester | 1. Register for courses (core and elective) courses  
2. Register for Doctoral Dissertation (BME 7991,2,3,6)**  
3. Apply for Graduation®  
4. Complete your written dissertation and submit to research committee members%  
5. Defend your Dissertation*#  
6. Submit documentations to the Graduate School for successfully completing your dissertation  
7. Submit finalized Dissertation to the Graduate School after defense and approval from your research committee@,^ |

*All members of the committee have to conform to the BME guidelines  
*All members of the committee needs to be appointed to the Graduate School (No members can be appointed during the summer semester)  
*Flyer for the public defense of the proposal/dissertation has to be electronically sent to all BME faculty and students at least 3 weeks before the day of the defense.  
*Flyer for the public defense of the proposal/dissertation has to be electronically sent to all BME faculty and students at least 3 weeks before the day of the defense.  
%Written proposal/dissertation has to be given to your research committee members at least 2 weeks before the day of the defense.  
@Check with Graduate School (website or catalog) for deadlines  
**Registration of a minimum of 1 Dissertation hour is required in the graduating semester.  
^ In addition to the Graduate School requirements, students are required to submit 2 bound copies of the finalized Thesis to the BME program office (one for the BME office at UTSA and another one for the BME office at UTHSCSA).