Prospective candidates for the degree of doctor of philosophy are admitted under the same procedures and requirements outlined in the general regulations elsewhere in the *AU Bulletin*. A student must be admitted to a specific doctoral program, but admission does not mean admission to candidacy for the degree, which occurs only after satisfactory completion of the general oral examination.

**Summary of Admission Procedures for Doctoral Degree Programs:**

1. Obtain application forms from the Graduate School and apply by submitting all required materials to the Graduate School by the deadlines published in this Bulletin. The Graduate School forwards the application to the appropriate departmental screening committee. The department head or chair then makes a recommendation to the dean of the Graduate School, who sends a letter notifying the applicant of the decision.

2. Apply for an assistantship, if applicable, through the department involved.

3. Become familiar with the requirements for the doctoral degree as published in this Bulletin.

4. Consult with the departmental advisor and become familiar with departmental procedures.

5. Plan a schedule of study for the first semester with advisor.

6. Submit a proposed schedule for fulfilling the residency requirements.

7. Acquire necessary forms at the Graduate School or on the Web at [www.grad.auburn.edu](http://www.grad.auburn.edu).

8. Establish an advisory committee through the major professor and department head or chair. Official appointment of the advisory committee occurs when the Plan of Study is approved by the Graduate School.

9. Prepare a Plan of Study approved by the advisory committee and department head or chair and submit to the Graduate School.

10. Complete course work, including language requirements, if any, as detailed in the Plan of Study.

11. Arrange for the general written and oral examinations through the advisory committee. After the written examination, schedule the general oral examination at least one week in advance using a form obtained from the Graduate School.

13. Request graduation check in the Graduate School no later than the last day of the semester (graduation day) prior to the semester of graduation.

14. Register for at least one course the semester of graduation.

15. Prepare dissertation and submit a committee-approved first draft to the Graduate School for review and approval by the University Reader, who serves as the representative of the graduate faculty.

16. Study recommendations of the University Reader and make appropriate changes in the dissertation.

17. On approval of the dissertation by the dean of the Graduate School, arrange for final oral examination.

18. File an Academic Residency form.