Ph.D. Program Path

START!

1. Email Tom Hurst (thurst@umd.edu), with the name of your advisor and your area of specialization.
2. Once you have been informed of the composition of your examining committee, you should contact the chair of the committee to make the necessary arrangements for the qualifying exam. Times vary depending on your education level:
   - You have a Master's: No later than 3rd semester
   - You have a Bachelor's: 2nd semester after 18 or more credits or 4th semester (whichever is 1st)

QUALIFYING EXAM

Pass? → **Yes**

No → **1st or 2nd attempt?**

TRY AGAIN! → **1st**

2nd → Remain 1 more semester then transfer to M.S. or admission terminated

1. Finish coursework
2. Complete "Doctoral Coursework Plan" (Aerospace form) and submit to department
3. Form dissertation committee with your advisor
4. Schedule comprehensive exam with advisor and committee

COMPREHENSIVE EXAM

Pass? → **Yes**

No → **1st or 2nd attempt?**

TRY AGAIN! → **1st**

2nd → **ADMISSION TERMINATED**

1. Complete and submit "Application for Admission to Candidacy" form to Graduate School
2. Complete and submit "Nomination of Thesis or Dissertation Committee" form to Graduate School
3. Finish any remaining coursework

1. Write thesis proposal
2. Submit proposal to advisor for approval
3. Dissertation research and writing
   - 12 hours of ENAE899 required (2 semesters)
3. Schedule and undergo pre-defense (when 50-80% finished with planned research)
4. Revise and provide committee and department office with advisor approved copy of dissertation at least 10 days prior to defense
5. Schedule defense between 8:30am—3:30pm; give at least 5 days notice

THESIS DEFENSE

Pass? → **Yes** → **Revision & final approval**

No → **1st or 2nd attempt?**

RE-DEFEND → **1st**

2nd → **ADMISSION TERMINATED**

1. Submit copy of dissertation (with your advisor's signature) to department
2. Submit following to Registrar:
   - Signed "Report of Examining Committee" form (automatically placed in student file)
   - "Thesis and Dissertation Electronic Publication Form"
3. Apply for graduation

Note: This guide is a general overview of the PhD program path. For full details of the described requirements, please consult the Graduate Student Handbook, p. 8-15