Students working toward a Ph.D. degree usually require from four to six years to complete the requirements. Each student must pass the comprehensive examinations (testing the student’s knowledge of basic graduate-level mathematics in algebra, analysis, and other areas) and the preliminary examination (testing the student’s ability to begin or continue research in a chosen field). Students must also write and defend a research thesis in their field of mathematics.

For additional details and requirements refer to the department’s Guide to Graduate Studies (https://math.illinois.edu/academics/graduate-program-mathematics/) and the Graduate College Handbook (http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook/).