There are 3 fundamental requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy Degree: Residency, Preliminary Oral Exam, Doctoral Thesis and Oral Defense

Residency Requirement
All Ph.D students must complete a minimum of four consecutive terms, or three consecutive terms and a contiguous summer term as a full-time resident student. In most cases, this residency requirement is satisfied by registering for 16 credits each term.

Preliminary Oral Exam
All Ph.D students must successfully pass a required preliminary oral exam conducted by five faculty members. The purpose of this examination is to determine whether the student has both the ability and knowledge to undertake significant research in his/her general area of interest.

Doctoral Thesis and Oral Defense
All Ph.D students must successfully complete a written thesis that is (1) based on original research, (2) worthy of publication, and (3) acceptable to the sponsoring Department and to a committee of thesis readers. The format of the written thesis must conform to the proscribed format detailed in Guidelines for the Preparation of Dissertations and Theses, available on the Sheridan Libraries Web site.

The oral defense of the thesis shall be conducted by a committee of thesis readers after the Department agrees that the candidate is ready for the formal defense. During this defense the committee shall evaluate: (a) the originality and publication potential of the research; (b) the candidate's understanding of the details of the methodologic and analytic work; and (c) the final quality of the written thesis document.

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ScM Shared Content
Minimum requirements for completion of the ScM degree at the Bloomberg School of Public Health are Residency, "Outside" Coursework, Comprehensive Written Exam and Thesis

Residency
A minimum of 64 credits is required to complete the degree.

"Outside" Coursework
At least 12 credit units of formal coursework are required in courses outside the student’s primary department. At least six of these credits must be taken in the Bloomberg School of Public Health.