All participants in the MSCI Program are expected to devote at least 50% of their time available for coursework, to their research and educational activities, and to meet a set of milestones for graduation. These activities are designed to ensure that individuals graduating from the program will not only have developed skills, but also a track record of accomplishments to assist them in their future career development.

Trainees are expected to complete the following in order to graduate:

In year 1:
- Submit an abstract to a regional or national meeting (as first or middle author).
- Submit a manuscript for a review paper related to your research area for publication (as first or last author).

In year 2:
- Be a lead author on an abstract submitted to a regional or national meeting.
- Prepare and submit a research manuscript for publication (as first author).
- Prepare (and submit to the Executive Committee) a grant application for federal or other national funding.
  - Individuals at the Assistant Professor level or who are presently in the process of trying to transition to independent funding are expected to submit a grant of at least two years duration, targeted at a national funding organization, and including substantial salary or research support.
  - Individuals at the fellowship level who are not yet ready to pursue independent funding are expected to submit a grant between one and two years duration, targeted at a national or regional funding organization, and including substantial salary or research support.
  - Individuals at the residency level, or who do not have the requisite prior research track record, as determined in consultation with the Executive Committee, may submit a grant proposal intended for one or two years duration, targeted at a national, regional or local funding organization.
- Prepare and submit an academic portfolio including copies of power point presentations, records of any awards or grants, and any other documents reflecting accomplishments during the training period.
- Present and defend Master’s thesis to faculty and fellow trainees.