



Graduate Studies in Physics

Ph.D. Degree Requirements

Course Requirements

To allow students the flexibility to choose courses that are related to their field of research, there is no set course track for physics graduate students. However, there are a few requirements:

- All students must take two courses outside his/her area of specialization. One of these must be a 700 or 800 level physics course.
- All students must take two semesters of a physics seminar course.
- Theory students must take either PHYS624 or PHYS625.
- All students must take the Foundations and Frontiers of Physics seminar.

Candidacy Requirements

To advance to candidacy, all students must:

- Pass the Qualifying Exam. Students are given **three** tries to pass the exam. A “free try” is allowed within the first year of study.
- Give a Preliminary Research Presentation. This presentation is expected to be given within a year after passing the Qualifying Exam.
- Submit a Scholarly Paper. This paper should be written within four years of entering the graduate program.

Ph.D. Requirements

To graduate with the Doctor of Philosophy degree, all students must:

- Take at least 12 credits (2 semesters) of Doctoral Dissertation Research (PHYS899). Students who have reached candidacy will be registered for 6 credits of PHYS899 each semester until they graduate.
- Successfully defend his/her dissertation.
- Complete all of the requirements for advancing to candidacy

Ph.D. Program Timeline

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Years 7+
Pass Qualifying Exam		Advance to Candidacy		Graduate!		
Recommended First-Year Courses Fall: 601, 604, 622 Spring: 603, 606, 623 Foundations and Frontiers of Physics Non-credit required seminar (offered in the Spring) Find a Research Group		Electives & Seminars <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two electives outside your area of specialization • Two semesters of seminars Complete Preliminary Research Presentation and Scholarly Paper		Doctoral Dissertation Research Two semesters of 899 Finalize Dissertation Committee Members		