



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 three graduate-level courses (600-level or above)
- All students must take two semesters of a physics seminar course.
- All students must take the Foundations and Frontiers of Physics seminar.

Candidacy Requirements

To advance to candidacy, all students must:

- Pass a section of the Qualifying Exam when it is given **OR** Pass PHYS 610 & 612 (Part A) and PHYS 611 & PHYS 613 (Part B) with a grade of B or better.
- 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: 610, 612 Spring: 611, 613 Foundations and Frontiers of Physics Non-credit required seminar Find a Research Group		Electives & Seminars <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three graduate-level courses (600-level or above) • Two semesters of physics seminars Complete Preliminary Research Presentation and Scholarly Paper		Doctoral Dissertation Research Two semesters of 899 Finalize Dissertation Committee Members		