

Pathway to Physics Ph.D.

Application Process

Applications to the P³ program will be considered on a rolling basis. We urge potential applicants to consider applying early. Students who apply by November 1, 2021 will be notified of a decision by December 1. This is well before the deadlines of most Ph.D. programs and if you are accepted to the program at that time, you may well decide to attend the University of Maryland's Physics Ph.D. program through P³ and to save yourself the expense of multiple graduate school applications.

Formally the application to the P³ program and the University of Maryland's Physics Ph.D. program are distinct. **After you are accepted to the P³ program (or waitlisted by it) you must then formally apply to the Ph.D. program. Your application fee to the Ph.D. program will be paid by the P³ program. Students accepted into the P³ program will be admitted to the Ph.D. program when they complete the Ph.D. application*.**

All applications materials should be sent to: physicspathways@umd.edu with the subject line: **Application materials: your last name.**

Materials for the application:

- **A personal statement:** This can consist of two parts.
 - *A research statement:* This should describe your research interests and for those who have been involved in research as an undergraduate a brief description of the research you have done.
 - *A statement of life experiences and attitudes:* This statement should tell us a bit more about you and what makes you tick. You can let us know about things that are important to you. We are particularly interested in your attitude toward dealing with challenges.
- **A CV or resume:** (This is optional, but we find them helpful. So, if you have one please send it.)
- **A transcript:** An unofficial transcript is fine. However, you will be required to submit an official transcript when you enroll in the Ph.D. program.
- **You should arrange for three letters of reference to be sent:** To do this, contact the people who you wish to write letters on your behalf electronically and include the following link **** which gives instructions for the letter writers.

*Technically, the Physics Ph.D. program at Maryland can only recommend admission to the Graduate School which formally has the authority to accept students. However, the Graduate School has universally followed the program's recommendations.

Since the Ph.D. is a research degree, we find letters from research supervisors to be particularly valuable—in general more valuable than letters from course instructors. So, if you have had research experience, it is sensible to ask your research supervisor or supervisors to write at least one of the letters of reference (although it is also probably a good idea to have at least one letter from a course instructor who know you well). If you do not have research experience, it is fine to have all three letters from course instructors.