

Physics PhD Degree Requirements & Recommended Timeline (updated for fall 2024, still current fall 2025)

	YEAR 1		YEAR 2		YEARS 3-5
	Fall (12 units)	Spring (12 units)	Fall (12 units)	Spring (12 units)	
CORE COURSES	<input type="checkbox"/> PHYS 202 (1 unit) <i>Foundations of Physics</i> <input type="checkbox"/> PHYS 210 (4 units) <i>Electrodynamics and Optics I</i> <input type="checkbox"/> PHYS 205 (4 units) <i>Classical Mechanics</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> PHYS 237 (4 units) <i>Quantum Mechanics I</i> <input type="checkbox"/> PHYS 212 (4 units) <i>Statistical Mechanics</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> PHYS or School of Natural Sciences or School of Engineering Graduate Elective (3-4 units)	<input type="checkbox"/> PHYS or School of Natural Sciences or School of Engineering Graduate Elective (3-4 units)	<input type="checkbox"/> Advance to Candidacy by End of Year 3 <input type="checkbox"/> PHYS or School of Natural Sciences or School of Engineering Graduate Elective (3-4 units) <i>*Only if elective requirements have not been fulfilled in Year 2</i>
RESEARCH	<input type="checkbox"/> PHYS 295 (1 unit) <i>Graduate Research, with Rotation Advisor</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> PHYS 295 (3 units) <i>Graduate Research, with Rotation Advisor</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> PHYS 295 (6-7 units) <i>Graduate Research</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> PHYS 295 (7-8 units) <i>Graduate Research</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> PHYS 295 (varies) <i>Graduate Research (each semester)</i> <i>*Fill 12 unit per semester requirement</i>
SEMINARS	<input type="checkbox"/> PHYS 293 (1 unit) <i>Physics Colloquium</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> PHYS 293 (1 unit) <i>Physics Colloquium</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> PHYS 293 (1 unit) <i>Physics Colloquium</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> PHYS 293 (1 unit) <i>Physics Colloquium</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> PHYS 293 (1 unit) <i>Physics Colloquium</i> <i>*Only if seminar requirements have not been fulfilled</i>
OTHER COURSES	<input type="checkbox"/> PHYS 251 (1 unit) <i>Introduction to Graduate Research</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> QSB 294 (1 unit) <i>Responsible Conduct Research</i>		
ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS	<input type="checkbox"/> TA Assignment <i>Must serve at least one semester</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Confirm Advisor <i>By end of 1st year</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Form Committee <i>Required by end of 1st year</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Take Pre-Qualifying Exam <i>Must take by end of 2nd year</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Begin Holding Annual Meetings with Committee <i>Every year</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> Publish Peer-reviewed Article(s) and Present at Conference(s) <i>*Recommended but not required</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Apply for Graduation <input type="checkbox"/> Pass Dissertation Defense <input type="checkbox"/> Submit Thesis