

Physics PhD Degree Requirements & Recommended Timeline (updated for fall 2024)

| | 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 |