

Physics Graduate Admissions FAQs

When does the application process start?

The application is open for submissions on October 1st.

What is the application deadline?

The deadline is January 15th.

What term can I apply for?

The Physics Department admits students to begin studies during Fall term only, which begins in late September.

When can I expect to hear a decision about my application?

You will receive a decision on your application by March 15th, if your application is completed by January 15th.

Does the Physics Department offer conditional admission for non-native English speakers?

No, conditional admission is not available for graduate students. You must meet the English language requirement before being admitted.

Do I need to contact a faculty member before applying?

No, there is no need to contact a faculty member or establish a research advisor before applying to our program. Ph.D. students will choose a research advisor in their first year of the program.

Are both the General GRE and the Physics GRE required?

[Suspended during the COVID pandemic]

~~The GRE General Test (verbal, quantitative, analytical) is required for all applicants. The Physics GRE Subject Test is optional but strongly recommended for applicants with a bachelor's degree outside of physics or for non-traditional students. The GRE Subject Test helps reviewers gauge your potential for success in graduate coursework. The Physics GRE is not required for M.S. applicants. We do not have minimum GRE score requirements.~~

Where do I upload GRE or TOEFL/IELTS test scores?

Please upload a copy of your GRE and/or TOEFL Test Taker Score Report directly to your application in the “Academic History” section of the application as if it were an additional transcript.

I'm having trouble formatting the personal statement section of the application. What do I do?

The only way to format the personal statement section of the application is by using html. You're welcome to do so if you'd like but most personal statements we receive are unformatted, which doesn't negatively impact your application in any way.

Does the Physics Department require official transcripts when I apply?

No, the Physics Department doesn't require official transcripts during the application process. You may upload an unofficial transcript to the application. If you are admitted to the program, you will be required to send an official transcript to the Physics Department at that time.

What preparation do I need for graduate study?

You should have an undergraduate degree in physics or a closely related subject. Your undergraduate education should include familiarity with subject material found in the following text books: *Classical Mechanics*; Classical Mechanics (Taylor); *Electricity and Magnetism*; Introduction to Electrodynamics (Griffiths); *Statistical and Thermal Physics*; An Introduction to Thermal Physics (Schroeder); *Modern Physics*; Introduction to Quantum Mechanics (Griffiths and Schroeder).

What graduate degrees are offered?

You can earn a M.S. and/or a Ph.D. in physics. The M.S. usually takes 1-2 years and the Ph.D. takes an additional three to five years beyond the M.S. The M.S. degree can be earned either through thesis or non-thesis options.

How is the Ph.D. program structured?

As a graduate student entering with a Bachelor's degree, you have approximately two years of graduate coursework to complete. Graduate core courses are taken during the first year in the program, and breadth requirements can be taken at any times thereafter, with students typically completing most coursework during their second year. During your first year of study,

you will explore possible research fields of interest through conversations with faculty members and their research group members and by attending seminars and research group meetings. You will identify a research advisor and begin working in a research group your first summer in the program. Beginning your second year you will begin preparing for a comprehensive exam that assesses readiness for research work in the chosen area of specialization. It must be passed by the end of Fall term in year four. Various advisory committees, composed of multiple faculty, help support students and ensure that progress is being made towards their degree. The Ph.D. program culminates in a written dissertation and an oral defense of the thesis.

How is the M.S. program structured?

As a graduate student entering with a Bachelor's degree, you will take 1-2 years to complete a total of 45 graduate credits of which 32 credits must be in physics. These credits must be taken for a grade and passed with a B- or better. The remaining credits may be earned in related fields such as mathematics, chemistry, biology, geology, or other courses approved by the Director of Graduate Studies. At least 3 term-length courses in mathematics are also required. A master's thesis is optional:

What type of financial support is available?

We offer teaching assistantships to first and second year students admitted to our Ph.D. program. Beyond the second year, students are typically supported by research assistantships provided by their research advisor. All assistantships include a monthly salary of ~\$2,000/month, a tuition waiver up to 16 credits per term, and approximately 95% of your health insurance premium is paid by the UO. Master's students are not guaranteed financial support from the Physics Department.

Can I log back into my application and make changes after it has been submitted?

No, once your application is submitted you cannot log back in to make changes. Please make sure your application is complete before officially submitting it. However, the Physics Department can assist you with making minor changes to the department section of the application after it has been submitted. Contact Tiffany Stewart (tiffany@uoregon.edu) for assistance.