

Physics Ph.D. – Timeline for Graduation

Year 1

The Physics department recommends that for Years 1-3, students take 12 credit hours in Fall/Spring and 6 credit hours in Summer. Courses completed with grades below C (2.0) will not be counted toward degree requirements.

1. Attend academic advising session. The goal of the session is to advise students in class selection and research directions. Sessions take place twice a year and are mandatory for all pre-candidacy graduate students.

2. Take the recommended first year core courses for a solid foundation in physics.

3. Get connected with a research group with the goal of research credit and support by summer.

4. Ph.D. Qualifying Examination

Prepare for the Ph.D. Qualifying Examination and take the exam in August at the end of first year.

5. Master of Science in Physics

Apply for your **Master of Science in Physics Degree** after passing the qualifying exam and earning 30 credit hours. Submit the [Master's Application for Advanced Degree \(MAAD\)](#) edoc. The edoc is used for both commencement participation and graduation purposes.

Year 2

6. As soon as possible after you pass the qualifying exam, select an initial **Advisory Committee** whose responsibility is to supervise progress toward the degree. It will usually become your dissertation committee. Once your committee is formed, submit the [Advisory Committee for the Ph.D.](#) edoc.

7. Take courses to meet the requirements for your major and minor areas of concentration. View the [Physics University Graduate School Academic Bulletin](#) for details.

8. Increase your involvement with research and find out about support via a research assistantship or a fellowship.

Year 3

9. Candidacy Seminar

By your 5th semester in the program, schedule and present, in front of your committee, a **Candidacy Seminar** outlining the proposed subject of your future dissertation. Soon after your talk, ask your

research advisor to sign the **Candidacy Seminar form** and return it to the Physics Graduate Office along with a 1-2 page summary of your research.

10. Nomination to Candidacy

You are officially nominated to candidacy once you (1) pass the qualifying exam, (2) complete your major and minor requirements, (3) successfully present your candidacy seminar and (4) fulfill your teaching requirement. Once these requirements are met, submit the [Nomination to Candidacy of the Ph.D. Degree \(NTC\)](#) edoc. Your candidacy will expire 7 years from the date of your Qualifying exam.

Year 4 to Completion (expected time to completion is 6 years)

N.B. Annual PhD Committee Meeting Report: Students need to initiate an annual meeting with their research committee every Spring semester, starting in the 4th year, to discuss their progress to degree. Following this meeting, the "Annual Ph.D. Committee Meeting Report" form must be signed by the student and the committee members present, and submitted to the Graduate Student Services office. Students will NOT be able to register for Fall if the form has not been submitted.

11. G901 Advanced Research

Once you are nominated to candidacy AND complete 90 credit hours, you are eligible to enroll in the G901 Advanced Research course. G901 is always 6 credit hours and is limited to a total of six semesters. There is no G901 in the summer unless you graduate in the summer term.

12. Nomination of Research Committee

Once the nomination to candidacy has been approved and upon your advisor's approval, establish a research committee as soon as possible but in any case BEFORE the end of your 4th year. The dissertation research committee will typically be your advisory committee.

Once you selected your research committee, submit the [Nomination of research Committee for the Ph.D.](#) e-doc. You will need to attach a 1-2 page dissertation proposal that can be the research summary you submitted after presenting your candidacy seminar. The NORC e-doc must be approved by the Graduate School at least 6 months prior to your defense date. You can always change a committee member after your NORC e-doc is approved. You will use the [Change of Research Committee for the Ph.D.](#) e-doc. The change will not reset the 6-month wait period.

13.

Once you have finalized your dissertation, you must schedule and announce your defense. At least 30 days before your defense, schedule a mutually agreeable time with your committee to hold your defense. Provide all members of your committee with a complete copy of your dissertation and submit the [Ph.D. Defense Announcement](#) e-doc. The University Graduate School must receive the edoc at least 30 days in advance of your defense, so it is recommended that you submit the edoc at least 40 days before your defense date to allow time for the edoc to route for approval.

14. Defend your dissertation in front of your

1. **PhD Defense Announcement**

- Schedule a mutually agreeable time with your committee to hold your defense.
- Contact Brendan Devine (physofc@indiana.edu or 812-855-1247) to arrange a location.
- Submit the [Ph.D. Defense Announcement Submission](#) e-doc

- The PhDDA e-doc must be *received* by the Graduate School at least 30 days before the defense date, so please submit 40 days in advance to allow for routing.
 - Submit a copy of your dissertation to each committee member 30 days prior to your defense.
- 2. Defense**
- Oral defense of your dissertation in front of your research committee.
 - At the defense, the committee must sign your acceptance page and abstract.
- 3. Graduation**
- By the 15th of the month you wish to graduate, submit your dissertation to ProQuest for review. All content of your dissertation must be complete at this point as only formatting changes are permitted after your initial submission. See [here](#) for details.
 - Degrees are granted monthly.
 - Deadlines for May and December graduation will vary each year.
 - By the 27th of the month you wish to graduate, submit a signed acceptance page and a signed abstract page, as well as your corrected doctoral dissertation.
 - If you wish to participate in the graduation ceremony, complete the [Ph.D. Commencement Participation Application](#) by September 25 for December Commencement and by February 25 for May Commencement.

Graduation

.By the 15th of the month you wish to graduate, submit online through ProQuest your **initial dissertation** (corrected version based on the committee members' suggestions on your defense day). You'll find information on dissertation submission methods [here](#). All content of your dissertation must be complete at this point as only formatting changes are permitted after your initial submission. The Graduate School will notify you of any format changes that are needed within a week of the deadline (by the 22nd of the month). You'll find information on formatting requirements [here](#).

.By the 27th of the month you wish to graduate, submit the **final version of your dissertation** (including the formatting changes suggested by the Graduate School)

.By the 27th of the month you wish to graduate, submit your approved [Defense Signatures](#) edoc (this edoc replaces the paper document with "live" signatures)

If you decide to graduate in May 2021, the deadlines will be May 1st for the initial dissertation submission and May 15th for the Defense Signatures edoc and final dissertation submission. December 2021 deadlines will also slightly differ (the Graduate School has not released the dates yet). Please note that you will need to be enrolled in at least one credit hour if you decide to graduate in the summer (June, July, August).