UConn Physics Graduate Program Degree Requirements

The definitive UConn rules for graduate degrees (both MS and PhD) are described in the Graduate Schools Catalog.

In addition to the Grad School requirements, the Physics Department has some additional requirements. These requirements, described below, apply to all students entering the Physics graduate program in 2015 or later. Students who entered the program earlier are subject to the rules in place when they entered the program.

1. There is no foreign language requirement for the Physics MS and PhD degrees.

2. **Progress Form:** each year, each student must complete, in consultation with their faculty advisor, a UConn Physics Graduate student progress form.

3. **Plan of Study:** to be completed for MS students no later than the beginning of the final semester, and for PhD students no later than when 18 credits of course-work have been completed. (These are also Graduate School requirements). The plan of study for MS in Physics includes six physics courses: 5101, 5201, 5301, 5401, 5402 and 5501. The students require a minimum GPA of 3.0 in all physics courses in the plan of study for matriculation with MS in physics.

4. **General Examination** (often referred to as the “preliminary examination”): there are four written exams on core physics subjects, each offered twice each academic year prior to the start of the Fall and Spring semesters:
   (a) Classical Mechanics (recommended preparation: PHYS 5201)
   (b) Electrodynamics (recommended preparation: PHYS 5301)
   (c) Quantum Mechanics (recommended preparation: PHYS 5401 and PHYS 5402)
   (d) Statistical Mechanics (recommended preparation: PHYS 5500)

All PhD students are strongly encouraged to pass these exams as early as is consistent with their course-work preparation, and normally before the start of their third year.

Students are permitted one more attempt beyond their second year, but all four written preliminary exams must be passed prior to the beginning of the sixth semester in the program. There is no penalty for a failed early attempt.

5. **Required classes:** for the PhD degree, students must pass both PHYS 5302 (Electrodynamics II) and PHYS 5403 (Quantum Mechanics III). These are not required for the MS degree.

6. **Dissertation Proposal:** by the end of their third year, all PhD students must have an Advisory Committee and must complete their Dissertation Proposal (details and form at the Graduate School website): the written proposal must be approved by the student’s Advisory Committee, including an oral defense of the proposal before a committee composed of their Advisory Committee and two other Faculty examiners.
7. **Colloquium and Seminars:** All Physics Graduate Students are expected to attend the Departmental Colloquium, and to participate in the regular research seminars in the department.

8. A **Safety exam** is required of all graduate students; a **Shop Course** is required for use of the Physics Machine Shop, and Laser Safety Training for students using lasers. All beginning graduate students are required to attend the computer information workshop and orientation on computer use and security.