PhD in Physics

Admission Requirements

Applicants are considered on an individual basis. Complete transcripts of all undergraduate and any graduate work must be submitted. In addition to the Graduate College minimum requirements, applicants must meet the following program requirements:

- **Baccalaureate Field** No restrictions. Prior academic work must include at least 20 semester hours of physics, including upper-level undergraduate electrodynamics, quantum mechanics, and classical mechanics.
- **Grade Point Average** At least 2.75/4.00 for the final 60 semester (90 quarter) hours of undergraduate study.
- **Tests Required** GRE General exam and GRE Physics subject exam are both highly recommended, but not required.
- **English Proficiency** Additional information on the English proficiency test requirement for international students can be found on the UIC Admissions website. Minimum test scores for this program are:

Exam	Score	Reading	Listening	Speaking	Writing
TOEFL iBT (exams taken on or after 1/21/2026)	4.5	4	4	4.5	4.5
TOEFL iBT (exams taken prior to 1/21/2026)	80	19	17	20	21
IELTS Academic	6.5	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
PTE Academic	54	51	47	53	56
Duolingo English Test	130	125	125	125	125

- **Letters of Recommendation** Three required.
- **Personal Statement** Required.
- **Nondegree Applicants** Nondegree applicants must submit transcripts and a personal statement.

Degree Requirements

In addition to the Graduate College minimum requirements, students must meet the following program requirements:

- **Minimum Semester Hours Required** 96 from the baccalaureate.
- **Coursework** At least 32 hours. A maximum of 6 hours at the 400 level can be approved to fulfill these requirements. The remaining hours must be at the 500 level and may not include PHYS 596 and PHYS 599, or more than 4 hours of PHYS 595. Courses taken outside of physics may only fulfill these requirements with prior approval from the department.

  Students who enter the program with graduate-level credit from other institutions can petition the department to reduce the required hours on coursework. Students found to be deficient in specific areas of physics on the basis of course work taken prior to entering the program may have to complete additional hours beyond the minimum 32 hours.

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
PHYS 501	Electrodynamics	
PHYS 511	Quantum Mechanics I	
PHYS 561	Statistical Mechanics I	
PHYS 595	Graduate Seminar (four semesters)	
A minimum of 14 hours in the student's major area, approved by the director of graduate studies and the faculty advisor.		

- **Examinations**
  - *Preliminary Examination*: Required.
  - *Departmental Qualifying Examination*: Required.
- **Dissertation** Required.
- **Other Requirements** Each student must serve as a teaching assistant for at least two semesters.