

PHYSICS (MS IN PHYSICS)

in course work and satisfactory teaching (or, if appropriate, research) evaluations.

Return to the Department of Physics

Course Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Course Requirements		
PHYS 601	Classical Mechanics	4
PHYS 603	Mathematical Physics	4
PHYS 610	Classical Electricity and Magnetism I	4
PHYS 621	Quantum Mechanics I	4
PHYS 622	Quantum Mechanics II	4
PHYS 623	Statistical Physics and Thermodynamics	4
PHYS 651	Teaching Physics (2 credit course taken twice)	4
Elective courses at the 500 level or above.		4
Total Hours		32

Thesis Requirement

There is no thesis requirement.

Colloquium Requirement

Students must take two semesters of PHYS 685 - Colloquium (https://catalog.wm.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=33&poid=6780#tt5163) for a total of 0 required credits.

Comprehensive Exam Requirement

The candidate must take the Ph.D. qualifying exam. This exam deals with the undergraduate material, the content of the first-year graduate courses and colloquia. There are two possible outcomes of the qualifying exam: pass or not pass at the Ph.D. level. Passing at the Ph.D. level satisfies the exam requirement for an M.S. degree. Otherwise, the Physics faculty will consider the qualifying exam score, along with academic performance in course work and research performance (if any), in order to determine whether the standards for a Master of Science degree are met. A student is granted two attempts to pass the qualifying examination; further attempts may be allowed by the Departmental Graduate Studies Committee on the basis of a petition by the candidate.

Language Requirement

There is no foreign language requirement.

Satisfactory Progress

To be eligible to graduate, all students must achieve a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in all courses undertaken for graduate credit at William & Mary after admission to a degree program. No credit toward a degree will be allowed for a course in which a student receives a grade below C (grade point = 2.0). Before taking the qualifying exam, satisfactory progress consists of achieving at least a B (3.0/4.0) average