UW Department of Physics Graduate Programs

University of Wisconsin-Madison

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Madison

- Population: ~255,000
- Metropolitan area population: ~660,000
- Second largest city in Wisconsin
- Capital city
- Biking, food, parks, lakes, trails, festivals, museums
- Epic, American Family Insurance, Exact Sciences, Google regional office
- 4-hour drive to Minneapolis
- 3-hour drive to Chicago
- 90-minute drive to Milwaukee
- UW-Madison enrollment: ~51,820

  (includes ~37,200 undergrad + ~10,000 grad)

UW-Madison MS(P)QC Program

1st Quantum Computing MS program in the U.S. (2019)

Addresses a need in the growing quantum industry:

- Students with classroom training, independent project experience, and laboratory experience who can join the workforce in less time than a PhD student

Designed so all STEM backgrounds can be successful

Flexible academic plans

- 3 to 6-semester plans available

Blends…

- Classroom instruction
- Independent projects/research experience
- Laboratory experience

MS(P)QC Program Overview

- $1700/credit + Fees & Cost of Living
- 30 credits required
- Advised by MS(P)QC Faculty
- Minimum 3.0 GPA during program
- Specialization tracks in hardware (solid state or AMO) and software (industry or research)
- Required courses:

  Physics 709: Intro to Quantum Computing

  Physics 779: Advanced Quantum Computing

  Physics 763: Qubit Tune-Up and Programming

  Physics 707: Quantum Computing Laboratory
- https://www.physics.wisc.edu/graduate/mspqc-program/

MS(P)QC Program Application

Fall 2027 Deadline: March 15, 2027

https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/

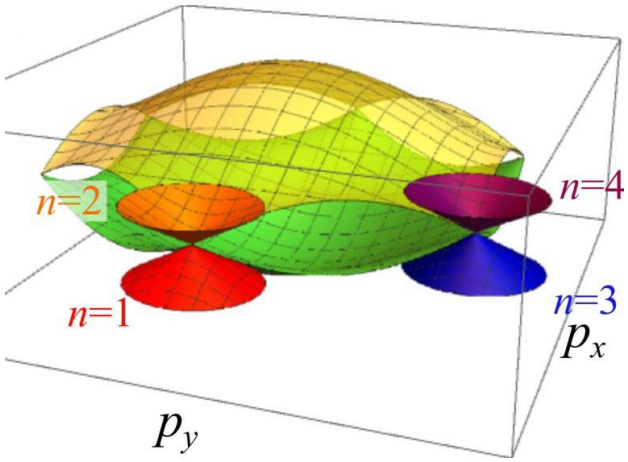
- Three letters of recommendation (professional and/or academic)
  - Your references will be sent an automated email via the application
- Unofficial transcripts from all prior institutions of higher education
- English language proficiency scores (if required)
  - https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/
- Résumé/CV
- Statement of Purpose
  - Why are you right for this program and why is this program right for you?
  - Educational preparation, scientific interests, future aspirations
  - https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/prepare/
- Financial information (international students only)
- No GRE score will be considered
- Can apply for up to three UW-Madison graduate programs

UW-Madison Physics PhD Program

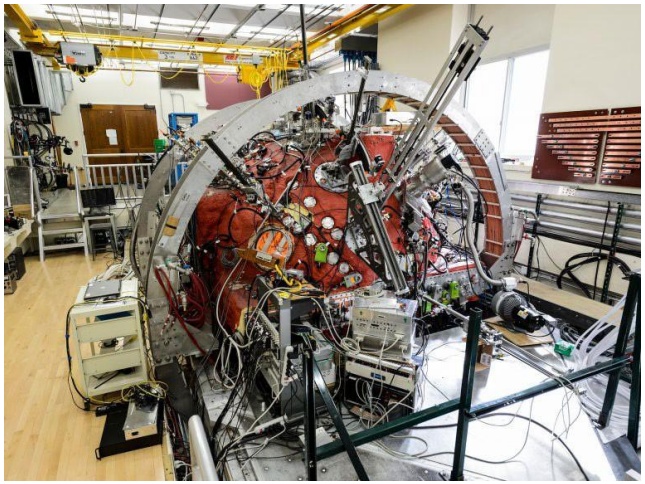
- First PhD awarded by UW-Madison Physics in 1899. Over 1500 PhDs completed since.
- All admitted PhD students are provided a funding commitment of 5 years.
- Graduate assistantships include stipend, tuition remission and eligibility for health insurance

PHYSICS PHD PROGRAM	UW-MADISON GRADUATE SCHOOL
207 Students	**850+** PhDs awarded annually
<7 yrs median time to graduation	**5th** in national research rankings
5 Years funding commitment	Professional development opportunities and student support services
51 Credits required to graduate	$ Apply to 3 programs with one application fee
42% International Students	
30% Female Students	

PhD Program Overview



- Average length of stay = 6.7 years
  (45% finish in <6 years)
- Five core courses
  - Physics 711 – Theoretical Physics - Dynamics
  - Physics 715 – Statistical Mechanics
  - Physics 721 – Theoretical Physics - Electrodynamics
  - Physics 731/732 – Quantum Mechanics
- Qualifying exam by start of 4th semester
- Preliminary exam by end of 6th semester
- 51 credits required



- Research opportunities across all areas of physics
- Wide range of opportunities for graduates in academia, industry, government and beyond.

PhD Program Application

- UW-Madison Graduate School Application
- Required Documents by December 15th, 2026:
  - 3 Letters of recommendation (professional and/or academic)
    - Your references will be sent an automated email via the application
    - The most impactful letters come from current or past research advisors
  - Unofficial transcripts from all prior institutions of higher education
  - English language proficiency scores (if required)
  - Resume/CV
  - Personal statement
    - Describe your relevant prior experiences and future research interests and goals.
  - Financial information (international students only)
  - The subject GRE is optional, but recommended in these circumstances:
    - Your transcript does not accurately reflect your academic strengths
    - If including the score would significantly strengthen your application
    - Physics Theory is your primary research interest

What's Next?

- PhD Application Deadline: December 15, 2026
- MS(P)QC Application Deadline: March 15, 2027

- Check our prospective student page for updates and future webinars. *(Look for these slides to be posted there!)*
- Pose questions about the PhD to our online Q&A here – Sharon will answer new questions once a week, usually on Tuesdays.
- Send all questions to our graduate office, physgrad@physics.wisc.edu