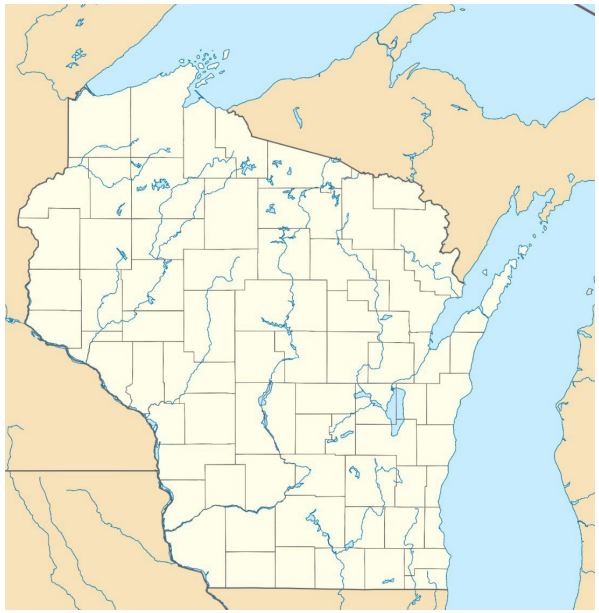
# UW Department of Physics PhD Program

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Sharon Kahn - PhD-Physics, Graduate Program Manager

# Madison

- Population: 269,840
- Metropolitan area: 505,954
- 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

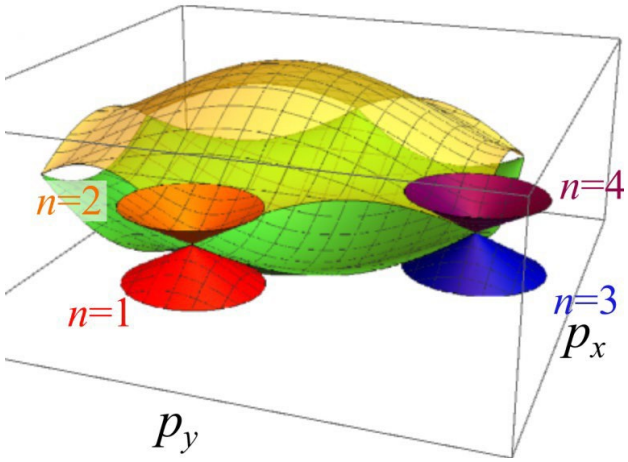


# UW-Madison Physics PhD Program

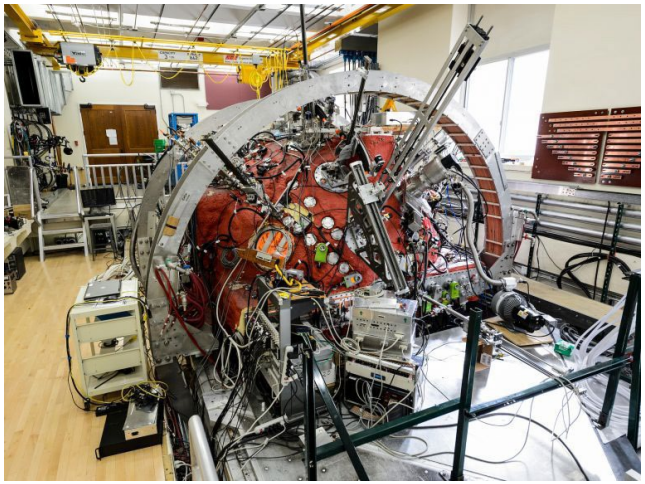
- First PhD awarded by UW-Madison Physics in 1899. Over 1500 PhDs completed since.
- All admitted PhD students are provided a funding commitment of 5 years.
- Graduate assistantships include stipend, tuition remission and eligibility for health insurance

| 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
- 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 4$^{th}$ semester
- Preliminary exam by end of 6$^{th}$ 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?

- November 17, 2026, 9:30am - Info Session *(particularly relevant for applicants who are 1st generation college students or have faced barriers in their educational opportunities)*
- December 15, 2026:  PhD Application Deadline:

- Check our prospective student page *(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 any and all questions to our graduate office email: physgrad@physics.wisc.edu