

Admissions Statement — Fall 2021

The Graduate Admissions Committees in the Department of Physics at the University of Wisconsin–Madison are aware of the existing disruptions due to the Covid-19 pandemic and will be making special considerations for the upcoming Fall 2021 admissions season. We remain dedicated to our ongoing tradition of a holistic review of all graduate applications, especially in these unprecedented times. To acknowledge the significant disruption that Covid-19 has caused applicants from all backgrounds and experiences, and the limited availability of the GRE tests around the world, **the Admissions Committee will NOT require GRE test scores to be submitted for any Fall 2021 applications, and will not take into consideration any submitted GRE test scores in our review process.** This includes the general GRE and Physics subject GRE exam for the Physics Ph.D. Program and the general GRE exam for the MS Physics-Quantum Computing (MSPQC) Program.

Additionally, we understand that many institutions introduced new grading schemes such as satisfactory/unsatisfactory, pass/fail, or credit/no credit. We are aware that some institutions enforced new grading schemes centrally while other institutions let students choose between the new grading scheme or traditional letter grades. We believe that both institutions and students made every effort to maintain the highest level of rigor and integrity in the educational outcomes during a difficult situation. The Admissions Committee will honor these Spring 2020 grades as part of the holistic review of all graduate applications and will give special consideration to the extenuating circumstances of the Covid-19 pandemic.

At this time, there is an online option to take the TOEFL exam and thus the standard TOEFL requirement remains in place for Fall 2021. Every applicant whose native language is not English, or whose undergraduate instruction was not in English, must provide an English proficiency test score per the UW-Madison Graduate School requirements. More information on the English Proficiency requirement and any exceptions can be found on the Graduate School website: <https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/>

The Fall 2021 graduate application will open in September 2020 as scheduled. The deadline for the Physics Ph.D. Program will remain December 15th. The deadline for the MS Physics-Quantum Computing (MSPQC) will remain March 15th. Any questions about the application process or the Covid-19 details listed above can be directed to physgrad@physics.wisc.edu

Ph.D. ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

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