



UW Department of Physics Graduate Programs

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Sharon Kahn - PhD-Physics, Graduate Program Manager

Alice Kwok— MSQC Program, Graduate Advisor

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: ~49,800
(includes ~35,400 undergrad + ~10,000 grad)



UW-Madison MSQC 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

MSQC Program Overview

- \$1700/credit + Fees & Cost of Living
- 30 credits required
- Advised by MSQC 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 763: Qubit Tune-Up and Programming
 - Physics 779: Advanced Quantum Computing
 - Physics 707: Quantum Computing Laboratory
- <https://www.physics.wisc.edu/graduate/mspqc-program/>

MSQC Program Application

Fall 2026 Deadline: March 15, 2026

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

- 3 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

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

235 Students

6.7 Yrs median time to graduation

5 Years funding commitment

51 Credits required to graduate

42% International Students

30% Female Students

UW-MADISON GRADUATE SCHOOL

750+ PhDs awarded annually

6th in national research rankings



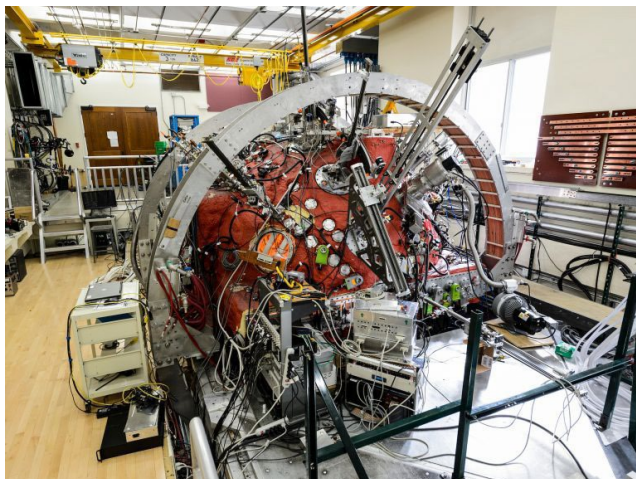
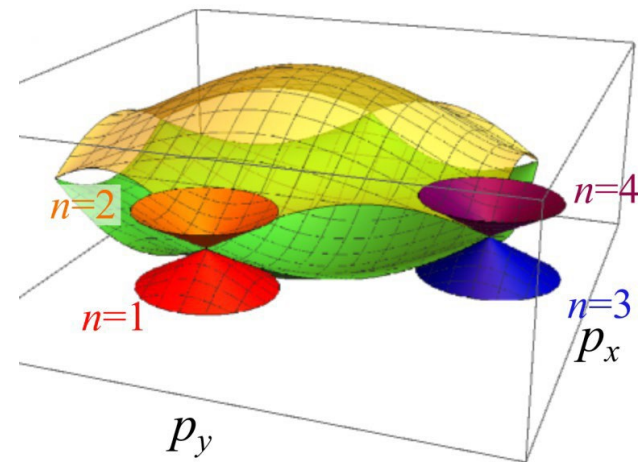
Professional development opportunities and student support services



Apply to 3 programs with one application fee

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 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, 2025:
 - 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, 2025
- MSQC Application Deadline: March 15, 2026
- 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 Thursdays.
- Send all questions to our graduate office, physgrad@physics.wisc.edu