

Department of Medical Physics

**University of Wisconsin
Madison**

Student Handbook



For students entering the program in 2026 or later

Date of Revision: August 2026

Department of Medical Physics
University of Wisconsin
1111 Highland Avenue
1005 Wisconsin Institutes for Medical Research
Madison, WI 53705-2275

Policy

In conformance with applicable federal and state regulations, UW-Madison does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, handicap, religion, age, national origin, or veteran's status with regard to treatment of students in the educational programs or activities, which it operates. Inquiries concerning this policy may be directed to appropriate campus admitting or employing units or to the Office of Affirmative Action Planning and Programming, Division of Diversity, Equity & Educational Achievement, 109 Bascom Hall 500 Lincoln Drive

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[Office of the Registrar Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action Statement](#)

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All UW School of Medicine and Public Health faculty, staff and students are responsible for upholding the highest standards for professional conduct and ethical behavior in pursuing the School's missions of patient care, education, research, and service. Professionalism includes: 1) demonstrating honesty, integrity, inclusivity, accountability, and fairness; 2) treating everyone, including patients and visitors, colleagues, staff, and learners, with kindness, compassion, and respect; and 3) making a commitment to altruism in all interactions. Faculty, staff and students are responsible for personally modeling professional conduct as described in the School's Shared Guidelines for Professional Conduct (available [here](#)) and inspiring and expecting professional behavior by others. The School of Medicine and Public Health expects all faculty, staff and students to abide by these principles of professionalism, and associated laws and university policies, in the performance of their responsibilities.

Medical Physics Administrative Directory

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Information about the Department of Medical Physics

Degrees Offered

The Department of Medical Physics offers programs of study leading to Master of Science (MS) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degrees in Medical Physics. The PhD program has a 'Clinical Pathway' and an 'Interdisciplinary Pathway'. Students in the PhD program select a pathway based on their career plans, as detailed below. The MS program has two named options, called the 'Accelerated Program MS' and the 'Clinical/Research MS'. As of fall 2025, the Accelerated Program MS is the sole admitting MS degree program. The Clinical/Research MS is designed for students who matriculate into the PhD program and follow the Clinical Pathway.

PhD degree

The PhD program is structured so the student may emphasize the conventional areas of radiation therapy physics and metrology, image science, or health physics, or may develop a plan of study outside of these areas of concentration. The Clinical Pathway offers coursework in conventional areas of medical physics, and the degrees are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Physics Education Programs (CAMPEP). The Interdisciplinary Pathway offers a PhD degree that can be tailored to a non-traditional area of concentration and is not CAMPEP accredited.

Clinical Pathway

Students on the Clinical Pathway take the 'CAMPEP Core Curriculum', a didactic training program covering topics needed for a career in clinical medical physics, including radiological physics & dosimetry, radiation protection & safety, fundamentals of medical imaging, radiobiology, anatomy & physiology, radiation therapy physics, and professionalism & ethics. Students should select the Clinical Pathway if they plan to enter a CAMPEP-accredited residency program and train to become a board-certified clinical medical physicist following graduate school. For additional information, see the section 'Clinical Physics Positions: ABR Board Certification'.

Interdisciplinary Pathway

PhD students pursuing a primarily research-based, industry, public policy, or entrepreneurial career (i.e. non-clinical) are encouraged to enter the Interdisciplinary pathway. This pathway gives the student and their advisor the freedom to replace some of the core courses with alternate courses that are specifically aligned with the student's research interests, including courses offered outside the Medical Physics Department. This pathway is well suited to students who wish to focus on a specific modality, or emerging discoveries and inventions in medical physics, biomedical engineering, and biophysics. This pathway does not provide CAMPEP accreditation for clinical physics residency placement. For additional information on planning the Interdisciplinary Pathway, see 'Planning a Pathway'.

MS degree

Accelerated Program

The Accelerated Program MS is a CAMPEP-compliant non-thesis degree which admits both traditional students and Visiting International Student Program (VISP) students. VISP students take one year of coursework as an undergraduate and then complete their coursework as a graduate student. The degree is designed for students seeking a terminal master's degree with the goal of becoming a board-certified clinical medical physicist. Students take the CAMPEP Core Curriculum, a 3 credit elective course (MP674, MP688, MP679, MP770, or MP772), and a 1 credit lab course, which may be either MP581 or a Rad Lab.

Comparison of Minimum Credit Requirements

	Accelerated MS	Clinical/Research MS	Clinical Pathway PhD	Interdisciplinary Pathway PhD
Total credits – courses + lab + research + journal club	30	30	54	54
MP Course credits	26	26	26	10
Elective courses / Advanced courses	3*	2*	9*	10+15**
MP900 Journal Club and Seminar	0	1	4	4
MP581 Lab	1***	1	1	0
MP990 Research	0	0	14	15
Credits taken in residence	24	24	32	32

* See elective / advanced program requirements in [Guide](#)

** 10 credits in the Medical Physics department and 15 elective graduate credits numbered 500+

*** A Rad Lab course may be taken instead to fulfill this lab credit requirement.

CAMPEP Core Curriculum Courses

MP 501	Radiation Physics and Dosimetry -- (3 cr.)	Fall	~2 labs
MP 510	Fundamentals of Cellular, Molecular, and Radiation Biology -- (3 cr.)	Fall	
MP 566	Physics of Radiotherapy -- (3 cr.)	Spring	~9 labs
MP 569	Health Physics and Biological Effects -- (3 cr.)	Fall	
MP 573	Mathematical Methods in Medical Physics -- (3 cr.)	Fall	
MP 578	Non-Ionizing Diagnostic Imaging -- (4 cr.)	Spring	
MP 580	Physics of Medical Imaging with Ionizing Radiation -- (4 cr.)	Spring	
MP 671	Selected Topics in Medical Physics: Anatomy and Physiology -- (2 cr.)	Fall	
MP 701	Ethics, Responsible Conduct of Research and Practice of Medical Physics -- (1 cr.)	Fall	

This Core Curriculum, satisfies the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Physics Education Programs, Inc. ([CAMPEP](#)) core course requirements as defined in the [Standards for Accreditation of Graduate Educational Programs in Medical Physics](#). Ph.D. students on the Clinical Pathway must complete these courses prior to advancing to dissertator status.

Lab Courses in Medical Physics

MP 581	Laboratory for Medical Imaging with Ionizing Radiation -- (1 cr.)
MP 662	Rad Lab – Diagnostic Radiological Physics -- (1 cr.)

MP 663	Rad Lab – Nuclear Medicine Physics -- (1 cr.)
MP 664	Rad Lab – Health Physics -- (1 cr.)
MP 665	Rad Lab – CT, MRI, and DSA Physics -- (1 cr.)
MP 666	Rad Lab – Medical Ultrasound Physics -- (1 cr.)

Advanced Courses in Medical Physics

MP 619	Microscopy of Life -- (3 cr.)	
MP 651	Methods for Neuroimaging Research -- (3 cr.)	
MP 674	Data Science in Medical Physics -- (3 cr.)	
MP 679	Radiation Physics Metrology -- (3 cr.)	~5 labs
MP 688	Radiation Production and Detection -- (4 cr.)	~7 labs
MP 705	Women and Leadership: Science, Health and Engineering -- (2 cr.)	
MP 710	Advances in Medical Magnetic Resonance -- (3 cr.)	
MP 722	Computational Optics and Imaging -- (3 cr.)	
MP 750	Biological Optical Microscopy -- (3 cr.)	
MP 770	Advanced Brachytherapy Physics -- (3 cr.)	~5 labs
MP 772	Advanced Radiation Treatment Planning -- (3 cr.)	
MP 775	Advanced Ultrasound Physics -- (3 cr.)	
MP 777	Principles of X-ray Computed Tomography -- (3 cr.)	
MP 778	Machine Learning in Ultrasound Imaging -- (3 cr.)	
MP 780	Pharmacokinetic Modeling in Biomedical Imaging -- (2 cr.)	

Elective courses in the Dept. of Medical Physics that are numbered 600 or higher are considered Advanced courses. These courses as well as the 1-credit Rad labs can be used to satisfy the advanced course requirement of the PhD Clinical Pathway.

Other Graduate Elective Courses in Medical Physics

MP 506	Monte Carlo Radiation Transport -- (3 cr.)
MP 535	Introduction to Energy-Tissue Interactions -- (3 cr.)

Planning a PhD Pathway

Pathway choice depends on career goals. Historically, half of UW-Madison Medical Physics graduates have taken a clinical career path, while the other half have gone into academics, research, industry or public policy, in non-clinical pathways. All Medical Physics graduate students take the same set of foundational courses in their first semester. Starting in the 2nd semester, there is greater flexibility in course selection. For this reason, students should discuss pathway with their advisor as early as possible, and ideally decide before selecting their 2nd semester courses.

Students choosing the Clinical Pathway must ensure that they take all courses in the CAMPEP Core Curriculum and meet all other requirements for their degree. Note there is some flexibility in the sequencing of core courses. It is up to the student and advisor to plan their courses accordingly to be sure they have satisfied all requirements.

Students choosing the Interdisciplinary Pathway should prepare a course plan with their advisor. The student and advisor must provide the Dept. of Medical Physics Vice Chair of Education a written explanation describing the reasoning behind the course selections. The student will receive a written communication, to which the student must agree in writing, stating the student will not satisfy or be eligible to receive a CAMPEP completion attestation unless the core course(s) replaced by alternate course(s) are ultimately taken.

Clinical Physics Positions: ABR Board Certification

For those interested in careers in clinical Medical Physics, it is important to note that many clinical medical physics positions require certification by a certification board, the most common being the American Board of Radiology (ABR). Please be aware of eligibility requirements for ABR board certification exams. The exam is given in three parts:

Part 1 tests basic radiological physics and clinical aspects of radiological physics, including physiology and anatomy. Prerequisites include appropriate undergraduate physics education (at least three upper level physics courses required of a physics major, or equivalent) and an advanced degree in physics or medical physics. Candidates enrolled in a CAMPEP-accredited medical physics graduate program, such as here at UW-Madison, are eligible to take Part 1 during their graduate training. Note that applications for the Part 1 exam are due almost one year before the exam takes place, which means that a student may apply for the exam without having completed their Medical Physics degree yet.

Part 2 has a choice of three separate tests: a) Diagnostic Medical Physics; b) Nuclear Medical Physics; and c) Therapeutic Medical Physics. Besides didactic training, eligibility for Part 2 includes clinical training, which, starting with individuals taking Part 1 in 2014 and later, must be accomplished in a CAMPEP approved residency program.

Part 3 is an oral examination designed to test knowledge and fitness to practice Medical Physics in one or more of the specialty areas of Diagnostic Medical Physics, Nuclear Medical Physics and Therapeutic Medical Physics. The candidate is examined by five physics examiners, each of whom asks questions in five categories related to the specialty area(s). Detailed and the most up to date information on the ABR's Medical Physics Certification examination process can be obtained on its [website](#).

Prerequisite Course Deficiency During Admission to Medical Physics

We require the equivalent of a minor in Physics for admission to the program. Modern Physics is a specific course requirement. Applicants who are admitted to the program without meeting this requirement are instructed to register and take the missing physics course(s) for credit as soon as available to meet the pre-requisite for admission to the Medical Physics program. The course(s) should be completed by the end of the first year. The Dept. of Medical Physics Vice Chair of Education monitors this along with the student's advisor through e-mail and verification on the student's transcript by the Graduate Coordinator. Students who do not meet this requirement are not eligible to take the qualifying examination or receive any degrees in Medical Physics.

Advanced Degree Policies for the Clinical PhD Pathway

Students who entered the Medical Physics Program with an advanced degree (PhD) in a field other than medical or radiological physics must take our core curriculum courses unless equivalent coursework has been completed elsewhere. Students must also pass the Medical Physics PhD Qualifying Exam to pursue a doctoral degree. If a student has already received a master's degree in medical or radiological physics elsewhere, it may be possible to enter our program with intent to begin immediately working toward the PhD. In this case the student would take those MS required courses which were inadequately covered in their previous course of study as deemed by the Dept. of Medical Physics Vice Chair of Education and course instructors. A student may be excused from taking any required course if, in the judgment of the course instructor(s) and the Vice Chair of Education, an equivalent course has been successfully completed elsewhere. However, the credit requirements for the PhD have to be met over the course of study.

Transfer Credits for Prior Coursework

Transfer credits from UW-Madison and other institutions are permitted. In all cases, the courses must be graduate level courses. For courses taken at other institutions, the student should contact the graduate coordinator and request a waiver for the courses. The student will need to provide information on the courses taken including the syllabus, the schedule, and tests/quizzes/homeworks if they are available. Some translation of the material will be required if it is in another language. The Graduate Coordinator will work with the transfer credit committee. The committee will make a decision on whether or not the credits can be transferred. Graduate level courses taken while a UW-Madison student may be transferred. They should be housed in the Department of Medical Physics or cross listed with another department. Note at only an integer number of credits can be transferred.

[Policies for transferring credits](#) from other departments and institutions are set by the Graduate School policy UW-1216. According to this policy, transfer credits may be used to fulfil degree required coursework. However these transfer credits will not count towards the graduate career GPA, nor will they count towards the minimum *residence graduate requirement* unless they were taken at UW Madison. The Graduate School's minimum graduate *residence credit requirement* (policy [here](#)) can be satisfied only with courses taken as a graduate student at UW–Madison. The Department of Medical Physics *residence credit requirement* is documented in [Guide](#).

Interdisciplinary Biological and Health Sciences (IBHSC) Consortium

The IBHSC Consortium fosters a collaborative environment for research and study in the biological and health sciences. The Department of Medical Physics has been a member of the IBHSC Consortium since 2025. All students in the Department of Medical Physics will receive various communication emails from the IBHSC Consortium and are encouraged to attend events that are offered. There are various seminars and training programs that may be useful for your graduate career. The consortium sets the stipend levels for all research assistants and will be set every year on the new fiscal year date of July 1.

Appointments and Personal Assistance

Financial Assistance

Our department has a history of generous and long-term support for our students. Financial assistance is available in the form of fellowships, research assistantships, project assistantships, traineeships, and teaching assistantships. Funding is communicated at the time of acceptance into the program. Incoming students may receive financial support as research or project assistants, or on specific Graduate School or other program fellowships. Research Assistant (RA) and Project Assistant (PA) positions are filled on the basis of competence, relevant experience, and faculty funding availability. Fellowships are often given to students who are nominated by the department because of the student's specific needs, skills or other qualifications. Financial support can then vary throughout the student's program based on progress and additional department grants. In no case, however, should a student assume that such support will be unlimited. Availability of funds and satisfactory progress determine on-going support.

A limited number of partial Teaching Assistant (TA) positions are available in the department. These usually are awarded to advanced students who have taken the courses for which TAs are hired. If a student is interested in a TA position they should discuss this with the specific course instructors. Not all courses qualify to have a TA. Determination of eligibility for the class to have a TA is made by the Department Chair. If approved, TA training and other requirements are communicated by the Educational Programs Coordinator.

The Medical Physics Department administers the NIH NRSA UW Radiological Sciences Training Grant (T32). This grant is sponsored by the [National Cancer Institute](#) so an interest in cancer research is required. Students may be [nominated](#) by their advisors for one of the 7 pre-doctoral positions on this grant whenever there is an opening. Trainees are funded for a minimum of two years with a stipend, travel funds, tuition coverage and health insurance benefits. These positions are most often filled by students who are near or have attained dissertator status. If a student is interested in being considered for this traineeship, they should speak to their advisor and put together a nomination packet.

Other training grant opportunities are also available. Some of these are directed towards entering students (the Neurosciences Training Grant) or towards returning students (the Biotechnology Training Program (BTP) Grant) and are administered by other basic science departments.

Enrollment Requirements as an RA/PA/TA, Fellow or Trainee

Students who are pre-dissertators in the Medical Physics Department and hold a research assistantship, fellowship or trainee position must maintain full-time enrollment status (at least 8 credits during regular semesters) and 2 credits during the summer. PA's and TA's must register for at least 2 or more credits in the fall and spring semesters; summer registration is not necessary for PA's and TA's. In most cases, to be eligible for financial support, a student must be making satisfactory progress as defined by the department and the Graduate School. Several minimum enrollment conditions apply in order to maintain Visa status, loan deferment and other obligations. More information is available at: <https://grad.wisc.edu/academic-policies/>. Students who have achieved dissertator status, regardless of RA, TA, fellowship or trainee status, must register for 3 credits at all times, with at least 1 credit being research (MP990).

Lab Rotations

Lab rotations provide the opportunity for newly admitted students to better evaluate the labs and working environment associated with a potential mentor. It also allows faculty to better evaluate students being considered for their research teams. These are generally one-semester opportunities available to students who have funding and have not (as of the start of the semester) become aligned with a research group.

One funding mechanism for a rotation in the Department of Medical Physics is through the Interdisciplinary Biological and Health Sciences Consortium. Students on this funded rotation will have prescribed rotation timelines communicated to them well ahead of the first semester.

For all other non-consortium rotation students, it is in the student's best interest to secure an RA position with a faculty member as soon as possible, even while completing their rotations.

The length of each rotation is usually around 6 weeks. There are normally three rotations that take place. It is the new student's responsibility to identify labs in which they are interested and connect with the faculty to set-up these rotations. The graduate program directors and Educational Programs Coordinator can assist with this. Once the student has contacted the faculty or received names of faculty interested in offering a rotation and confirm that the faculty wish to have them rotate through their labs, then the names are submitted to the Graduate Program Committee chair(s).

The Graduate Program Committee Chairs will serve as the formal advisors during the rotations. Their role will be to sign off any academic forms on the student's behalf if needed, the IDP (unless an assigned advisor match is made and then they complete this in the spring term with the student). They are responsible to see that the rotation is providing a valuable learning opportunity for the students and should have regular contact to ensure this is happening. Compacts are signed after the student has identified a research advisor.

Rotations usually are for a single semester and are funded by the department, not an individual faculty member. It is important for the student to try and identify a lab to join as soon as possible. The student should try and identify this lab by the end of the semester, so that a more permanent arrangement can be organized before the next semester begins. Additional rotating semesters needs approval from the department chair.

Students with Disabilities

Support services can be found at the McBurney Disability Resource Center, which is located at 702 West Johnson Street, Suite 2104. The phone number is (608) 263-2741 and the TTY number is (608) 263-6393. Their e-mail address is mcburney@odos.wisc.edu and their web site can be found at <http://www.mcburney.wisc.edu>.

Personal Safety, Harassment, Discrimination, and Diversity/Inclusion

While there are many resources and activities designed to help you stay healthy and safe, three in particular are SAFEwalk (evening walking escorts), University Health Services (UHS), and the University Police.

Sexual harassment and sexual assault are important issues and are not tolerated in the UW-Madison community. UW-Madison offers a place to go if you believe that you are a [victim of sexual assault](#). The Office for Equity and Diversity provides extensive online documentation and contact information, including webpages on *Sexual Harassment Information*, *Safety and Sexual Assault*, and an online *Sexual Assault Reporting Form*. One may also contact the Office for Equity and Diversity at (608) 263-5562. The Office for Equity and Diversity website is also an important resource for information on discrimination.

Finally, the Dean of Students Office website is an excellent source of information with a convenient single web access point for multicultural student services, LGBT resources and information. The website also addresses issues related to personal safety, harassment, hostile and intimidating behaviors, discrimination, diversity/inclusion, hate and bias issues and provides links to reporting any such events (reporting of any such events (<https://grad.wisc.edu/current-students/#reporting-incidents>)).

Campus Police

The phone number for campus police is 608-264-2677. Of course, if there is an emergency dial 911.

First-Semester Student Survival Checklist

Summer:

- _____ Register for Courses (*You **MUST** be registered to get the WisCard ID card and get the bus pass*)
- _____ Connect with incoming students and your faculty advisor/research team
- _____ (If applicable) Submit Final Official Undergraduate or M.S. Transcripts to the Graduate School Admissions Office as soon as your final degree is posted. *Failure to do so will result in a hold placed on future registration*
- _____ If you have a need related to a disability, contact the [McBurney Center](#) before you arrive on campus for program access services, information and referrals.

First Few Days on-campus:

- _____ Meet with your advisor and research team
- _____ Check in with Medical Physics Departmental Office, WIMR I room 1005. Meet with office administrator (*for your cubicle assignment, keys, after hours entry*)
- _____ International Students – check in with International Students and Scholars Services and attend required meetings Visit their web site at: <http://www.iss.wisc.edu/>
- _____ Find your mail box in the Medical Physics Department
- _____ Change/Verify your mailing address in your **My UW** (<https://www.wisc.edu/>)
- _____ *Get your WisCard (Student ID card) at Union South (*remember to bring identification*)
<http://wiscard.wisc.edu/>
- _____ Get your bus pass by ordering online <https://transportation.wisc.edu/commuter-solutions/bus/student-bus-pass-program/>
- _____ Attend Department Orientation Activities
- _____ Meet with the HR Administrative Support Staff as needed after Orientation to complete any necessary paperwork (*Insurance forms, Direct Deposit form*)
- _____ Attend *New Graduate Student Welcome Events* sponsored by the Graduate School
- _____ Complete Mandatory HIPAA Training

First weeks of the Semester:

- _____ Meet with your advisor to review/sign the Graduate Student Compact
- _____ Complete your [Individual Development Plan \(IDP\)](#) as soon as it is requested electronically.
- _____ Take Radiation Dosimetry Training. (**Check with your advisor to see if you are required to get a badge.**)
- _____ Pay your tuition and/or segregated fees at the [Bursar's Office](#) (*watch deadlines*)
- _____ Add your coursework in the Education Portal > Coursework tab.
- _____ Check with your advisor on UW Health requirements, if working in hospital areas

On-going Checklist

- _____ Network with senior students to learn about program opportunities, faculty, courses, and more.
- _____ Inform the Medical Physics Office of any changes (*e.g., address, phone, advisor, funding, etc.*)
- _____ Pick up your mail and check your email regularly!
- _____ Update your CV/ resume on a bi-annual basis (at least)
- _____ Update Education Portal with relevant information re: committees, coursework, etc.
- _____ Update IDP

Program Completion Checklist

- _____ Make sure all incomplete grades (INC) are taken care of and final grade changes are reported.
- _____ Complete the **Exit Form** on the Education Portal (tab number 12).
- _____ Return all Medical Physics **keys** and library **books** that you have checked out.
- _____ Congratulations!!
- _____ Stay in touch – we want to know where you are going and how your Medical Physics career is growing.

Getting Started in Medical Physics at Wisconsin

The preceding page of this handbook contains a list of procedures to follow to get started in the department. Below is a more in-depth look at many of those items on the check list.

1. Enroll for classes. When you were admitted into the program, the Office of the Registrar informed you that you are eligible to enroll on or after a specific date. Registration for classes is done on-line. You will need your campus ID number to register.
2. Once you are enrolled and arrive on campus, you can get your picture student ID card, or WISCARD. This is issued at UW Union South. You will need your ID number as well as a photo ID, such as your passport, driver's license, or other official government issued ID.
3. Verify your mailing address on **My UW** at: <https://www.wisc.edu/>.
4. Pay your tuition/fees at the Bursar's Office (*watch deadlines because they charge fines for overdue payments*). Segregated fees are due the first Friday of the last month of the term (Fall/Spring) and the first Friday of the summer term.
5. Pick up a free Madison Metro bus pass at the Union South.
6. **Take Radiation Safety Training**, Radiation Safety 101: Radiation Safety for Radiation Workers (RSRW) – Part I 2020 <https://www.talent.wisc.edu/Catalog/Default.aspx?CK=66329>.
7. Check with your advisor if you need a radiation film badge. Additional training has to be completed. The badge must be worn in many areas. See <https://ehs.wisc.edu/radiation-safety-training/>
8. Take HIPAA training (see Mandatory HIPAA training below.)

Desks, Cubicles

The Medical Physics Department attempts to locate all students in study and work areas in close proximity to their advisor. For the majority of students, this means the student will have space either in a study carrel or a cubicle in the L1 or B1 module of Tower 1 of WIMR. Other areas that may be closer to the student's work area and to their advisors.

The Medical Physics Administrative Support Staff coordinates the space requests for Medical Physics graduate students and post-doctoral fellows. To get a cubicle, the student's advisor makes the request. There may be a time when all students cannot be accommodated because of the large number of trainees currently working with Medical Physics faculty. However, the administrative staff personnel for Medical Physics and Radiology do their best to accommodate all requests as soon as possible.

Computers

The department and the university support extensive computational resources for communication, e-mail, word processing, scientific computing, image processing, and presentations. The department's goal is for each student to have access to a desktop computer.

Computers generally are provided through the student's research group, working in partnership with the Medical Physics Department. Once a computer is made available, the IT Support staff member for the Medical Physics Department works with students to set up the system, explains policies and procedures, and installs software and updates when appropriate. Students should consult with their advisor on acquiring a desktop computer. In some situations, it may not be possible to provide each student with a personal desktop system. A limited number of shared computers are available in shared office space. The IT Support staff member is the contact to set up an account on these systems.

Since moving into WIMR in 2008, we experienced three flooding situations, one resulting in serious damage to computational resources. Students should avoid putting computers and other electronic gear on the floor as such placement previously resulted in loss of data and costly repairs.

Laptop computers, tablets, and other wireless devices can be used throughout Wisconsin Institute for Medical Research (WIMR). Access to the wireless portal is automatic with most wireless devices. Wireless access can be obtained using UWNet or eduroam SSIDs with an agreement that students will abide by the IT policies and procedures of the School of Medicine and Public Health and the University. Configuring devices to use the eduroam SSID will allow students to connect to eduroam SSIDs on other academic campuses using UW-Madison credentials. The Medical Physics Department rules and regulations are found at: <https://www.medphysics.wisc.edu/intranet/>

Education Portal

Besides the handbook, the most important resource for student information and progression is the [Education Portal](https://www.medphysics.wisc.edu/intranet/). Students can access this here: <https://www.medphysics.wisc.edu/intranet/> and should become familiar with the components it contains. While faculty will input information into the portal such as examination results and committee approvals, it is also a significant place to add, update and confirm information for students throughout the entire time in the Medical Physics Ph.D. program.

HIPAA Training (Mandatory)

The HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) Privacy Rule is a federal law designed to help protect the privacy of patient health information. Employees and students of Medical Physics, which is a unit included within the University's Health Care Component, must be familiar with the basic principles of the Privacy Rule. Therefore, everyone must complete annual HIPAA training modules. Failure to complete UW-Madison's HIPAA training by the required due date may result in the loss of system access until training is completed, removal from courses or clinical rotations, and/or discipline as determined by appropriate leadership in consultation with the Office of Compliance.

Students will automatically be enrolled in the HIPAA training module. To access the HIPAA training course directly in Canvas, visit [HIPAA Privacy and Security Training](#). If the training course does not appear in Canvas for you, contact your HIPAA Privacy Coordinator to request enrollment. Contact [Mitchell Sabez](#) to be enrolled if the training does not appear in your Canvas account.

For more information regarding HIPAA policies, please go to the Office of Compliance webpage: <https://compliance.wisc.edu/hipaa/training/>

Remember – this is an annual requirement and there is a new course/certification each year.

Course Enrollment Information

Semester Registration Procedures for all: Web Enrollment

Students must register for classes prior to the fall and spring semesters and prior to the summer session. Information and detailed instructions may be found at the [Registrar's Homepage](#).

Quick steps

1. Log in at my.wisc.edu. Select the Academic Navigator widget, then select the Course Search & Enroll widget.
2. Choose a term.
3. Search for the class(es).
4. Choose the section(s) that fit your schedule.
5. Follow instructions for choosing number of credits (if this is a variable-credit class).
6. SAVE COURSE Save the course to your cart.
7. Resolve any validation errors (which explain why you may not be eligible for the class).
8. In the cart, select the class.

9. Select the "Enroll" button.
10. Review your enrolled classes in the "Enrolled" list on the "My Courses" tab to confirm that you have successfully enrolled in the correct section.

Please pay attention to the registration and fee payment deadlines throughout your graduate studies. Students who do not register by the deadline will need to request late registration permission from the Graduate School Dean and have to pay a late fee.

Late Registration Appeal Process

Under extenuating circumstances, the Graduate School Dean may consider an appeal to register after the deadline. The appeal requires the following:

- 1) Letter from advisor on department letterhead stating why the student didn't register by the two week deadline and why the student needs to be registered.
- 2) Completed Course Change Form requesting to add courses.

The above items are sent to the Dean of the Graduate School.

Late Payment Fees

It is important to pay tuition and fees, whether enrolled in one or multiple sessions, by the due-date on the Student Account Invoice. A \$100 fee is assessed for payment made after the due date shown on the invoice, and other serious consequences may also result for summer and future terms. Questions should be directed to the Student Accounts Section, Bursar's Office, at (608) 262-2367. Before appealing a late fee, review the information at this site, to be sure of eligibility then follow the directions <https://bursar.wisc.edu/student-tuition-account/late-payment-fee-appeal>.

A Grade of Incomplete

An instructor may, at their discretion, assign the temporary grade of "Incomplete" to a student who fails to complete the work in a particular course. Each "Incomplete" must be replaced by a permanent grade by the end of the next semester. The course instructor will assign a permanent grade on the basis of what the student has accomplished in the course by that time. To remove an incomplete, the student must finish and turn in the coursework to the course instructor. The student should then request a grade change from the course instructor, who can enter the grade change online.

Pass-Fail Privilege

Students may take a course pass/fail if it is not used to meet general degree or major course requirements. (Generally, the instructor is not aware the course is being taken as pass/fail, and a grade of A, AB, B, BC, or C is reported as **P**; D or F is reported as **F**. Other courses, designated as credit/no credit, are offered for credit (**Cr**) or no credit (**N**); these courses are labeled in the Timetable. No grade points are assigned for courses taken pass/fail or credit/no credit; these credits are not averaged into a student's GPA. For information, call the Registrar's Office, (608) 262-3811.

Registering for Independent Study/Research credits

Non-dissertator students consult with their advisor on when to take independent study/research coursework, usually MP990, throughout their program. In order to ensure the student and the advisor are aware of work to be done as an independent study, permission is needed to enroll. The student should meet with the advisor, discuss the work load and outcomes and then determine the appropriate number of independent study credits needed each semester. The student and/or advisor can send an e-mail to the Educational Programs Coordinator, and they will grant permission to enroll. There may be times when a student would like to do independent work with someone other than their faculty advisor. The same process should be followed in this case.

Dissertators should contact the Educational Programs Coordinator for permission to enroll with their advisor for the MP990 required three credits each term. If a dissertator wishes to take a course other than MP990 for the required three credits, they need to get approval from their advisor.

Progression Information and Requirements

Compacts

In order to promote a positive relationship between graduate students and their advisors, the Department of Medical Physics has developed a compact to offer a set of broad guidelines that are meant to initiate discussions about this relationship. This compact is modeled after the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) compact (2017). Compacts are emailed to students and faculty advisors.

There are several potential applications/uses for this document, and the broad goal is that it will be used in the following ways:

- As a starting point for discussions between graduate students and advisors about the issues addressed by the compact
- As part of the orientation for new graduate students
- As part of a regular and ongoing discussion between graduate students and research advisors
- As a tool to initiate the development of additional programs and support services for graduate students within the Department of Medical Physics

Students and advisors must review the compacts which will then be signed by the advisor and each matriculating graduate student or newly-appointed postdoc. A signed copy of the compact should be maintained by both the advisor and the trainee.

Please note that individual laboratories may have additional guidelines/requirements. These should be reviewed and discussed similarly to this document. Those requirements are “above and beyond” the fundamental understandings captured in the attached compacts, which were based on AAMC versions that are commonly used by other academic health institutions.

Individual Development Plan (IDP)

The UW-Madison Graduate School requires completion of an Individual Development Plan (IDP) process for all graduate students. An IDP should be started during the first fall semester of enrollment and must be updated and reviewed annually by every graduate student by March 31. This IDP process is meant to be advantageous to students as it allows them to perform a detailed self-assessment and use the information from that assessment to establish specific goals to be achieved while in the program. For those who have not completed an IDP, or for those revisiting the process in the fall semester, more information is available at <http://grad.wisc.edu/pd/idp>. The Graduate School will notify students each fall semester, typically in October/November of each year, to meet with their research advisor and complete/update the IDP. The Medical Physics Program has implemented an online IDP submission process using the Education Portal. The required IDP information, along with an online additional component requesting information required for reporting to the SMPH, UW-Madison campus, and our accreditation body (CAMPEP), is updated by the student each year. Note that the IDP should be reviewed with the advisor and completed by the end of March of the first year and by each subsequent March thereafter. Note: The annual mentoring committee meetings (see section “Pre-Dissertator Mentoring Committee”) are separate. They do not need to happen at the same time.

Poster Presentation

Graduate students in Medical Physics who have completed their first year will be required to present a poster detailing their research activities over the course of the year at an annual intramural research conference. PhD students are expected to present on research in their lab. Terminal MS students should present on the work they did in a previous internship or a lab rotation. The research conference will be

open to the public and will be advertised in advance to ensure active participation by both the students as well as faculty and other researchers and will likely be aligned with the T32 Symposium when it is scheduled.

Satisfactory Academic Progress Medical Physics Department

Performing research and communicating findings from such research are key aspects of education and training for both the Terminal M.S. Degree and Ph.D. Degree programs in the Department of Medical Physics. Graduate Medical Physics students are expected to submit first-author abstracts for intramural or extramural presentations starting with their first year in the program and to document these presentations in the student's Education Portal.

Writing research reports and authoring or co-authoring research publications are critical parts of Ph.D. Degree education and training. All doctoral students are **required** to have *at least* one first-author, peer-reviewed journal publication or a submitted manuscript under peer-review in their area of research prior to their dissertation defense. Presentations and publications will be reviewed annually to determine satisfactory research progress. Dissertation defense warrants will not be issued until these requirements are completed and documented in the student's Education Portal. Any exceptions must be approved by the Graduate Committee or Department Chair three months prior to the defense date.

Grade Point Average

Students are required to maintain a 3.0 (B) grade-point average for the total program of graduate courses taken, not including research credits (MP990).

Mentoring Committees

All Medical Physics students (MS and PhD) shall form a Mentoring Committee to discuss and provide feedback on their academic and research path, beginning the first spring after matriculation into the program.

For PhD students, the student will form this 3-member committee, comprised of at least two medical physics faculty members and must include the student's research mentor. For the purposes of committee membership, a medical physics faculty member is defined as any faculty who has an appointment in the medical physics department (zero percentage is OK) and has been approved to be a primary advisor for medical physics graduate students. They will meet with the committee once a year until the Preliminary Exam is completed successfully and the student becomes a dissertator. The student will present their previously submitted IDP to the committee at each meeting and obtain feedback on their goals regarding coursework and career objectives. The two non-advisor Mentoring Committee members may naturally continue as members of the student's Preliminary Exam Committee, but this is not required. After formation of the committee, update the Education Portal with the committee members and meeting dates.

For Accelerated MS students, the student will form a 2-person committee. One of the members will be chosen by the Vice Chair of Education. The student will select a second member. The student should meet with their mentoring committee once in their first year in the Spring semester, and then a second time before they graduate in the Spring of their second year.

Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS)

SEVIS is an internet-based, electronic data collection system that allows schools and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to exchange data on the visa status of international students. The UW-Madison must report:

- Whether the student has enrolled at the school or failed to enroll.

- A change of the student's or dependent's legal name or address.
- Any student who graduates prior to the end date listed on the I-20.
- Academic or disciplinary actions taken due to criminal conviction.
- Whether the student drops below a full course of study without prior authorization from the DSO (Immigration regulations refer to international student advisers as "designated school officials" - DSOs).
- Termination date of academic program and reason for termination.
- Other data generated by standard procedures such as program extensions, school transfers, changes in level of study, employment authorizations, and reinstatement.
- Any student who fails to maintain status or complete his or her program.

Some examples of actions due to failure to maintain status include dropping from full-time to part-time enrollment without prior approval from the DSO, attending a school other than the one a student is authorized to attend, failure to apply for a timely transfer or I-20 extension or change in level of study, unauthorized employment, and failure to report a change of address.

Student records are updated in SEVIS every semester. Students who fail to maintain status will lose the privileges of their student visa and become subject to deportation. Specific consequences are severe and may include denial of reentry to the U.S., inability to move from undergraduate to graduate status, denial of requests for practical training, denial of requests to change visa status, and possible denial of all future visa applications.

For more information on SEVIS regulations contact International Student Services (ISS), 217 Armory and Gymnasium (Red Gym), 716 Langdon Street, 262-2044, iss@odos.wisc.edu, <http://iss.wisc.edu>; or visit DHS Office of Immigration and Customs Enforcement at <http://www.ice.gov/sevis>.

Working with Animals

Students and personnel working with animals must complete the Research Animal Resource Center (RARC): Animal User Online Certification training available through the same UW-RSP site. In order to be eligible to be listed on an IACUC protocol, certified completion of this course is necessary.

Working with Human Subjects

UW-Madison requires that all personnel engaged in human subject research and listed on an Institutional Review Board (IRB) protocol submitted to a UW-Madison IRB complete Human Subjects Protection training before approval of the protocol.

Clarification on Remote Work

If a student is planning on working remotely for an extended period of time, please contact the HR business partner. A remote work agreement (RWA) should be put into place if a student is working remotely. If a student is simply taking some vacation leave and chooses to do some work remotely, a RWA is not needed. Note that when a student takes a vacation leave, they are encouraged to take leave as intended (not performing their research responsibilities) for the full duration of the absence. Also note that Student Assistants (i.e. grad student employees) are not subject to the remote work policy, and therefore do not require a RWA unless they will be working out of state or internationally.

Vacation Leave Policy

A research assistant with a 50% appointment is entitled to 22.5 days of vacation leave per year. This is based on the allocated 90 hours of leave, but considering a 4-hour work day (50% appointment). Any time off is subject to approval from the supervisor. Dissertators are treated the same as predissertators. T32 trainees are treated the same as research assistants. Please direct any specific questions on this to the HR business partner, listed at the beginning of this handbook.

Leave of Absence

In some circumstances, it may be necessary for a student to temporarily leave the University for personal or other reasons. The following information is from the Graduate School Academic Policies and Procedures. Students should notify their programs as well as the Graduate School Office of Admissions and Academic Services (gsacserv@grad.wisc.edu) of their intention to take a leave of absence. If students have pre-enrolled for a future term and plan to take a leave of absence, they must be sure to drop all courses before the first day of class. Previously enrolled students who wish to return to Graduate School should follow the instructions on the [Graduate School Admissions webpage](#).

Changing Labs

In some circumstances a student is not a good fit in a lab. There are some things to consider in this situation. First, a student has the right to change labs, but they need to try and reconcile differences before seeking a new lab. If this can't be worked out, the student and the faculty member need to discuss with the vice chairs of education or graduate program coordinator. The department has some specific guidelines on this process. A minimum of six weeks is required to find a resolution. If at the end of this period a resolution is not found, the student will need to seek a new laboratory advisor. If the concerns have to do with a hostile environment, then the student should contact the department's grievance advisor.

Department Requirements for the Master of Science Degree

Coursework Summary

The Dept. of Medical Physics offers a Clinical/Research MS and an Accelerated Program MS. The Accelerated Program MS is an admitting degree program designed for students seeking a terminal MS degree. The Clinical/Research MS is available to students who matriculate into our PhD program and follow the Clinical Pathway. Coursework summaries are provided below. See Guide for full details.

Clinical/Research MS

CAMPEP Core Courses		Credits
MP 501	Radiation Physics and Dosimetry	3
MP 573	Mathematical Methods in Medical Physics	3
MP 510	Fundamentals of Cellular, Molecular, and Radiation Biology	3
MP 701	Ethics & Responsible Conduct of Research & Practice of Medical Physics	1
MP 566	Physics of Radiotherapy	3
MP 578	Non-Ionizing Diagnostic Imaging	4
MP 580	The Physics of Medical Imaging with Ionizing Radiation	4
MP 569	Health Physics and Biological Effects	3
MP 671	Selected Topics in Medical Physics (Topic: Anatomy and Physiology)	2
Additional required component		
MP 581	Laboratory for Medical Imaging with Ionizing Radiation	1
MP 900	Journal Club and Seminar	1
	In consultation with their PhD advisor/mentoring committee, student selects one advanced MED PHYS course at the 600 level or above.	2
Total required credits		30

Accelerated Program MS

CAMPEP Core Courses		Credits
MP 501	Radiation Physics and Dosimetry	3
MP 573	Mathematical Methods in Medical Physics	3
MP 510	Fundamentals of Cellular, Molecular, and Radiation Biology	3
MP 701	Ethics & Responsible Conduct of Research & Practice of Medical Physics	1
MP 566	Physics of Radiotherapy	3
MP 578	Non-Ionizing Diagnostic Imaging	4
MP 580	The Physics of Medical Imaging with Ionizing Radiation	4
MP 569	Health Physics and Biological Effects	3
MP 671	Selected Topics in Medical Physics (Topic: Anatomy and Physiology)	2
Additional required component		
	Student selects one of the following MED PHYS lab courses: MP 581, MP 662, MP 663, MP 664, MP 665, MP 666	1
	Student selects one of the following MED PHYS classroom courses: MP 674, MP 688, MP 679, MP 770, MP 772	3
Total required credits		30

Physiology/Anatomy Requirement

MP 671 Selected Topics in Medical Physics: Anatomy and Physiology is taken to satisfy this requirement. If a student has taken an anatomy or physiology course at another institution prior to being enrolled in the department, the student may request a waiver for this requirement. To request a waiver, the student must contact the graduate program coordinator and provide a written request, which should include the course syllabus and detailed course schedule for the course taken by the student. A transcript showing the grade in the course should also be provided. The content of the course will be compared against the CAMPEP content requirements. Two Medical Physics faculty members will review the course description and either approve or deny the waiver request. For students who would like to request the waiver, they should do so in their first or second semesters so that they can appropriately plan their course schedules.

Courses for Training Grant-Supported Students

Students selected as Training Grant trainees may be required to take additional courses in the biological sciences and research methods. Each training grant program has specific requirements, so current and prospective training grant trainees should consult with the Training Grant coordinator of the specific program for details.

Ethics and Responsible Conduct of Research

All MS and PhD degree students must complete the 1-credit, Medical Physics ethics course: MP701 *Ethics and the Responsible Conduct of Research and Practice of Medical Physics*. It is imperative that students understand that **course attendance is mandatory, and only a single excused absence is permitted for this course**. Students who fail to follow these requirements will be required to drop the course and retake it at a future date; this can delay progress toward degree completion.

Satisfactory Progress

Students working towards the MS degree must meet departmental criteria for satisfactory progress, as described in 'Progression Information and Requirements'. This includes but is not limited to maintaining a 3.0 (B) grade-point average for the total program of graduate courses taken, not including research credits (MP990).

Requirements of the Graduate School

[Requirements of the Graduate School](#) must be satisfied in addition to those of the department, including requirements for [minimum](#) and [maximum credits per term](#). More information can be found here: [Graduate School Academic Guidelines](#). As of Fall, 2024, the graduate school credit requirements state, "RAs are required to carry a full load each semester (8 to 15 credits including research or thesis credits for non-dissertators, 3 credits for dissertators) and at least 2 credits during the general 8-week summer session (DHH) (3 credits* for dissertators). Dissertators who hold assistantships are considered full-time with 3 credits* directly related to their dissertation."

Other Requirements

Seminar Attendance: Every semester all non-dissertator PhD students are **required** to regularly attend the weekly Medical Physics 900 Seminar to broaden their understanding of all aspects of Medical Physics. PhD students entering with an MS degree must also take the MP 900 Seminar sequence for four semesters.

Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVIS): See the section 'Progression Information and Requirements' for information on maintaining visa status for international students. Student records are updated in SEVIS every semester. Students who fail to maintain status will lose the privileges of their student visa and become subject to deportation. Specific consequences are severe and may include

denial of reentry to the U.S., inability to move from undergraduate to graduate status, denial of requests for practical training, denial of requests to change visa status, and possible denial of all future visa applications.

Statistics Courses: Although not a requirement for graduation, it is strongly recommended that all students complete a graduate course in statistics. Students interested in following the path to ABR Board Certification should also keep in mind that AAPM Report 197 recommends a course in statistical procedures in the training program. The core course MP674 satisfies the ABR statistics requirement. Other options include Statistics 541 and 571. Students should discuss this with their advisor.

Maintenance of Training Certification: Students must maintain their certification of HIPAA training, and maintain any other relevant research-related training (e.g. for working with animal or human subjects).

Engagement in Research: All graduate students are expected to engage in a research project to develop a systematic approach to solving problems and to gain familiarity with the scientific method. For students in the PhD program, this is a natural part of the process of developing a thesis proposal, conducting independent research, and ultimately defending a doctoral dissertation under the direction of an advisor. For terminal MS students, this experience is obtained by arranging either an industry internship or a lab rotation, with advising provided by the host lab as well as a faculty member with department affiliation. Terminal MS students will receive a list of faculty who are interested in hosting an MS student in their lab. Once you have had a chance to review these projects, it is your responsibility to reach out and inquire on the possibility of working with a faculty on their research project. This can be done with a simple email introducing yourself, explaining your interests in their project, and checking to see if they have some time to meet and discuss the opportunity. There may be more than one student interested in a single faculty's project, so you may have to check in with a few faculty before finding one that is a good match for you and faculty. The faculty have been made aware of this research experience matching process, and have been asked to wait until the end of the Fall semester to finalize anything. This should give you time to explore your options. After completing the research project or internship, the student must present their project at the winter poster symposium in their second year.

Terminal MS Degree for PhD Students on the Clinical Pathway

Students who matriculate into the PhD program and follow the Clinical Pathway can obtain a MS degree after they complete required coursework and pass the PhD qualifier examination. They may alternatively exit our program with a terminal MS degree and no PhD if they complete required coursework and either submit a MS Thesis or pass the PhD qualifier exam. This section describes expectations for an MS Thesis.

MS Thesis

An MS thesis should contain the following components:

- Abstract
- Table of contents
- Introduction and Problem Statement
- A comprehensive Literature Review, and statement of how the student's research contributed new knowledge to the field
- Around 2-3 chapters describing the original research performed to address the problem statement. Typically, at least one of these chapters should be publishable as a peer-reviewed journal paper.
- A Conclusion or Summary Chapter describing the new/novel contributions to the research.

- Possible future work in this research area
- Bibliography

It is recommended that the NIH grant format style is used for references. Below is an example. It works well to use single-spaces within an entry, and double spaces between entries.

Chen H, Varghese T, Rahko PS, and Zagzebski JA, Ultrasound Frame Rate Requirements for Cardiac Elastography: Experimental and in-vivo results, *Ultrasonics*, 2009; 49(1), 98-111.

The format of the thesis should follow the recommended formatting of a dissertation from the UW Graduate school, which can be found [here](#). Although the dissertation requires some items not required for an MS thesis (UMI Abstract and Copyright pages), the rest of the specific formatting guidelines should be followed for: line spacing, graphics, footnotes, endnotes, margins, page numbering, font size, title page, appendices, bibliography, equations, superscripts, and subscripts.

There is no minimum or maximum length of an MS thesis, but a good target length is around 75 pages, double spaced.

Structure of a two-year course sequence

The four semesters of study on the PhD Clinical Pathway each have a general theme:

1st semester (Fall): Foundations in physics, math, biology, and ethics

This is a fixed set of courses taken by all students in their first semester. The goal of this semester is to provide a solid foundation for all subsequent Medical Physics courses.

2nd semester (Spring): Basic medical physics courses

The 2nd semester covers imaging and radiotherapy oriented medical physics courses which build upon the foundational courses. Courses taken in this semester also prepare students for the advanced courses that they will take in the 3rd semester. Students should consult their advisors before selecting courses for this semester; see additional comments below.

3rd semester (Fall): Advanced medical physics courses, basic courses, electives

In this semester, students may choose from a number of advanced courses in imaging and radiotherapy. These should be aligned with the research interest of the student. Students will also take certain basic medical physics courses and elective courses in this semester.

4th semester (Spring): Remaining required courses and electives

In the 4th semester, students take any remaining courses in the CAMPEP core curriculum. Generally, this will be the required spring courses that were not taken in the 2nd semester. Students may also take electives and/or advanced courses in this semester.

A significant amount of tailoring is possible within this general framework. Example course sequences are provided in the following pages.

Students should pay special attention to their course selection in the 2nd semester. Specifically, they should look ahead to the advanced courses offered in the 3rd semester, choose advanced courses which are aligned with their own studies (in consultation with their advisor), and then ensure that the necessary pre-requisite courses are taken in the 2nd semester. Some important 2nd to 3rd semester sequences are:

MP566 (Radiotherapy) → MP572 (Advanced Treatment Planning) or MP771 (Advanced External Beam Therapy)

MP580 (Medical Imaging with Ionizing Radiation) → MP581 (Laboratory for Clinical Medical Imaging with Ionizing Radiation) → MP777 (Computed Tomography)

MP578 (Non-ionizing Diagnostic Imaging) → MP710 (Advances in Magnetic Resonance).

This is not an exhaustive list of advanced courses with necessary pre-requisites. Students are responsible for making sure they know the pre-requisites of any courses they wish to take.

Example 2-Year Sequence: Clinical Pathway PhD student focused on therapy

1st Semester -- (Fall)

- †§ Med. Phys. 501 -- Radiological Physics and Dosimetry -- (3 cr.)
- †§ Med. Phys. 573 -- Medical Image Science: Mathematical and Conceptual Basis -- (3 cr.)
- †§ Med. Phys. 510 -- Fundamentals of Cellular, Molecular, and Radiation Biology-- (3 cr.)
- †§ Med. Phys. 701 -- Ethics, Responsible Conduct of Research and Practice of Medical Physics -- (1 cr.)
- † Med. Phys. 900 -- Journal Club and Seminar -- (1 cr.)

2nd Semester -- (Spring)

- †§ Med. Phys. 566 -- Physics of Radiotherapy -- (3 cr.)
- Med. Phys. 688 -- Radiation Production and Detection -- (4 cr.)
- †§ Med. Phys. 580 -- The Physics of Medical Imaging with Ionizing Radiation -- (4 cr.)
- † Med. Phys. 900 -- Journal Club and Seminar -- (1 cr.)

3rd Semester -- (Fall)

- †§ Med. Phys. 569 -- Health Physics & Biological Effects -- (3 cr.)
- †§ Med. Phys. 671 -- Selected Topics: Anatomy and Physiology -- (2 cr.)
- †§ Med. Phys. 581 -- Laboratory for Clinical Medical Imaging with Ionizing Radiation (1 cr.)
- † Med. Phys. 900 -- Journal Club and Seminar -- (1 cr.)
- Med. Phys. 772 -- Advanced Radiation Treatment Planning -- (3 cr.)

*Advanced or elective: Examples:

- Med. Phys. 777 -- Principles of X-ray Computed Tomography -- (3 cr.)
- Med. Phys. 679 -- Radiation Physics Metrology -- (3 cr.)
- Med. Phys. 710 -- Advances in Medical Magnetic Resonance -- (2 cr.)
- Statistics 541, 571 or equivalent -- (3-4 cr.)

4th Semester -- (Spring)

- Med. Phys. 674 -- Mathematical Methods in Medical Physics -- (3 cr.)
- †§ Med. Phys. 578 -- Non-Ionizing Diagnostic Imaging -- (4 cr.)
- † Med. Phys. 900 -- Journal Club and Seminar -- (1 cr.)

*Advanced or elective: Examples:

- Med. Phys. 770*** -- Advanced Brachytherapy Physics -- (3 cr.)
- Med. Phys. 780 -- Pharmacokinetic Modeling in Biomedical Imaging -- (2 cr.)
- Biological Science (e.g., Oncology 401, Neuroscience 524, Physiology 335)

† Required course.

§ Courses required to satisfy the CAMPEP core curriculum.

* Electives are to be approved by faculty advisor. ** Offered every EVEN Spring *** Offered every ODD Spring

Please note: Trainees on the Radiological Sciences (T32) Training Grant must take a course in cancer biology, usually Oncology 401 or 703 at some point before or while on the T32.

Example 2-Year Sequence: Clinical Pathway PhD student focused on imaging

1st Semester -- (Fall)

- †§ Med. Phys. 501 -- Radiological Physics and Dosimetry -- (3 cr.)
- †§ Med. Phys. 573 -- Medical Image Science: Mathematical and Conceptual Basis -- (3 cr.)
- †§ Med. Phys. 510 -- Fundamentals of Cellular, Molecular, and Radiation Biology--(3 cr.)
- †§ Med. Phys. 701 -- Ethics, Responsible Conduct of Research and Practice of Medical Physics -- (1 cr.)
- † Med. Phys. 900 -- Journal Club and Seminar -- (1 cr.)

2nd Semester -- (Spring)

- †§ Med. Phys. 566 -- Physics of Radiotherapy -- (3 cr. beginning spring 2021)
- †§ Med. Phys. 578 -- Non-Ionizing Diagnostic Imaging -- (4 cr.)
- †§ Med. Phys. 580 -- The Physics of Medical Imaging with Ionizing Radiation -- (4 cr.)
- † Med. Phys. 900 -- Journal Club and Seminar -- (1 cr.)

3rd Semester -- (Fall)

- †§ Med. Phys. 569 -- Health Physics & Biological Effects -- (3 cr.)
- †§ Med. Phys. 671 -- Selected Topics: Anatomy and Physiology -- (2 cr.)
- †§ Med. Phys. 581 -- Laboratory for Clinical Medical Imaging with Ionizing Radiation (1 cr.)
- † Med. Phys. 900 -- Journal Club and Seminar -- (1 cr.)

*Advanced or elective: Examples:

- Med. Phys. 772 -- Advanced Radiation Treatment Planning -- (3 cr.)
- Med. Phys. 777 -- Principles of X-ray Computed Tomography -- (3 cr.)
- Med. Phys. 679 -- Radiation Physics Metrology -- (3 cr.)
- Med. Phys. 710 -- Advances in Medical Magnetic Resonance -- (2 cr.)
- Med. Phys. 778 -- Machine Learning in Ultrasound Imaging -- (3 cr.)
- Statistics 541, 571 or equivalent -- (3-4 cr.)

4th Semester -- (Spring)

- Med. Phys. 674 -- Mathematical Methods in Medical Physics -- (3 cr.)
- Med. Phys. 688 -- Radiation Production and Detection-- (4 cr.)
- † Med. Phys. 900 -- Journal Club and Seminar -- (1 cr)

*Advanced or elective: Examples:

- Med. Phys. 770*** -- Advanced Brachytherapy Physics -- (3 cr.)
- Med. Phys. 780 -- Pharmacokinetic Modeling in Biomedical Imaging -- (2 cr.)
- Biological Science (e.g., Oncology 401, Neuroscience 524, Physiology 335)

† Required course.

§ Courses required to satisfy the CAMPEP core curriculum.

* Electives are to be approved by faculty advisor. ** Offered every EVEN Spring *** Offered every ODD Spring

Please note: Trainees on the Radiological Sciences (T32) Training Grant must take a course in cancer biology, usually Oncology 401 or 703 at some point before or while on the T32.

Graduation for Master Degree Students

Students must be enrolled during the semester in which they expect to graduate; otherwise, they will be required to pay a degree completion fee. The only exception to this would be if the student finishes their work within a Graduate School defined Window Period after the semester ends. The degree is awarded at the end of the next semester, but enrollment is not necessary. In order to graduate, students must resolve all grades of Incomplete and have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0. They must also fulfill the Minimum Credit Requirement of the Graduate School. (See: Requirements of the Graduate School for the M.S. in Medical Physics.) Midway through the final semester (October for a Fall Degree, March for a Spring Degree and June for an August Degree), students expecting to receive the M.S. degree should request to add the **Master's degree** through their MyUW Student Center. The Graduate School will conduct a degree completion check to ensure that all requirements have been fulfilled. If all conditions have been met, the M.S. degree addition will be reviewed, and the Educational Program Coordinator will approve this. Then the student must request an M.S. warrant. Once the warrant is ordered and then signed by the Graduate program director, then the M.S. degree will be granted. The student is responsible for the submission of the required information to be included in the commencement program if desired, for participating in the commencement ceremony, and having the diploma mailed to them. Students can obtain further information about the ceremony at UW's "Countdown to Commencement," four to six weeks prior to graduation. **The Commencement Hotline number is 608-262-9076.**

Degree Certification

Degrees are processed at one time after the fall, spring, or summer semester. Due to the volume of degrees awarded, it can take up to four months after the semester has ended to receive a degree certificate. Sometimes students need written verification that they have their degree prior to the time that they actually receive their degree certificate in the mail. Students may request a degree certification letter from the Registrar's Office (website <https://registrar.wisc.edu/contact/>; phone number 608-262-3811). The signed master's warrant must be submitted to the Graduate School and processed before the Registrar's Office will supply this letter.

Oral PhD Qualifying Examination

Purpose of the Medical Physics Oral Qualifying Exam

The purpose of the Medical Physics qualifying exam is to evaluate a student's preparedness for pursuing a PhD. The oral qualifier is a chance to evaluate the student's general medical physics scientific preparedness and ability to synthesize knowledge, as opposed to their ability to pursue a specific research project area. In the Medical Physics department, the oral qualifying exam is intended to complement the preliminary exam. In the preliminary exam, the student presents their research plan, and the committee evaluates the research project and the student's potential to successfully complete their aims.

Additional Clarifications:

- Since part of the purpose of the exam is to evaluate the student's ability to synthesize knowledge, as noted above, it is distinctly different from the individual course tests, homework, and laboratory exercise.
- In the past, the Department of Medical physics proctored a written or oral qualifying exam, but has more recently consolidated into just an oral format. There are many advantages to an oral exam when evaluating a student's preparedness and ability to synthesize knowledge.
- Although Part 3 of the ABR certification exam process is an oral exam, the Medical Physics oral qualifier is not intended to be an ABR practice exam, nor is it designed to test for specific CAMPEP / ABR topics.
- It is quite common for graduate programs to administer both a qualifying and preliminary exam, although the format is quite variable from one department to another.

An **Oral Ph.D. Qualifying Exam (Qualifier)** is required for students pursuing a Ph.D. Degree. All students who take the qualifier must have completed the three fundamental 1st-semester core courses (MP501, MP510, and MP573) and at least one additional course of the student and advisor's choosing prior to the Qualifier. The additional course must be a 500 level or higher, but it may not be a Rad Lab, a journal club/seminar course (e.g. MP900), or a research credit (e.g. MP990).

The Qualifier will test the student on three core topics and an elective course and will be administered at the end of the second year of enrollment. The questions asked during the exam will be "integration style", which means they will test over multiple concepts. The student must pass the Oral PhD Qualifying Exam in order to subsequently take the Preliminary Exam.

Oral-Exam Committee: A student will be examined by members of an Oral-Exam Committee. The students' Oral-Exam committee will consist of three examiners from the three fundamental core courses, and an examiner for the elective course selected by the student and their advisor. The Graduate program director will select three members from the panel for each Oral-Exam Committee, with three named as alternates in case an appointed member is not available at the time of the exam due to unanticipated circumstances. The fourth examiner for the elective course must be selected by the student and their advisor and the name provided to the graduate program director. This examiner must agree to participate in the Oral Qualifying exam and is the responsibility of the student and advisor to obtain this agreement. The Graduate program director will appoint the fourth examiner to the student's Oral Exam Committee. A student's advisor cannot be a member of the student's Oral-Exam Committee.

Examination Details: Students will be tested in each area with 25 minutes allocated to each area. The student is advised to provide concise answers and avoid lengthy responses unless requested by the examiner. Students may pass to the next question if they are not familiar with the topic. The student may then revisit this question that was passed if time allows. Grading will take into consideration all of the student's answers and partial credit for incorrect answers is normally given.

Individual Course Area Grading Criteria: Students will be graded on their understanding of the fundamental medical physics concepts as well as integration of knowledge across core topic areas. Grading for each course in the Oral PhD Qualifying Exam will be performed on a 5-point scale listed below in order to provide feedback to the student.

- 1- Does not meet expectations (substantial deficiencies)
- 2- Below expectations (some deficiencies)
- 3- Meets expectations
- 4- Exceeds expectations
- 5- Exceptional performance

A grade of '3' or higher will be considered a pass for that course area. A grade of '2' or lower will be a fail, and the student will be responsible for re-examination of this area.

Students must answer at least 60% (minimum requirement to obtain a score of 3) of the questions (or subcomponents) correctly to obtain a pass in each section of the qualifier.

A score of '1' indicates that the student answered less than 20% of the questions correctly, while a score of '2' indicates that less than 40% of the questions were answered correctly. A score of '4' is reserved for students who answer 80% of the questions correctly, and '5' for 100% of the questions. Examiners are requested to use the entire range of scores over the 5-point scale.

Sometimes a question contains multiple sub-questions. Partial credit will be awarded for partially correct answers.

Scores will be entered by each committee member immediately following the examination on the Education & Training portal. A score of '1' or '2' requires a brief explanation in an associated text box. The committee will then deliberate to reach a consensus decision. Students will be provided consolidated comments and suggestions for improvement, if any, prepared by the committee. Critical thinking and reasoning skills will be addressed as a written comment to provide feedback to the student.

Overall Oral Qualifier Disposition: Students will be provided with an overall disposition of their qualifier results. The following are the three possible dispositions:

1. Unconditional Pass: Any examinee who passes all four subject areas will obtain an 'Unconditional Pass'.

2. Partial Re-examination: Students who pass two or three of the four subject areas will be eligible for a re-examination on the failed subject area(s) that they did not pass. The re-examination process will be the same as the original examination process but will only address the specific subjects that were not passed initially. Partial re-examinations sessions will include the same examiners from the courses in which the student was found to be deficient, with 25 minutes assigned to each subject. Following the retake, a decision of Pass or Fail will be made by the entire 4-member panel. A decision of 'Fail' on the re-examination will cause the student to be transferred from the Ph.D. degree program to the terminal M.S. degree program, where the student must complete and defend a written M.S. thesis.

3. Complete Re-examination: If a student passes one or zero subject areas, the student will be scheduled for a re-examination for all sections of the Oral Qualifying Exam. If a student is required to be 're-examined' after the Oral Qualifying Exam on their first attempt, the student will be given one more opportunity, 2 or 4 months later, to retake the entire exam. The same procedure used for the first attempt at the Oral Qualifier will be followed for the complete re-examination. Following the retake, a decision of Pass or Fail

will be made by the 4-member panel. Three of the four members must agree with the decision for a Pass.

A decision of 'Fail' on a second attempt will cause the student to be transferred from the Ph.D. degree program to the terminal M.S. degree program, where they will need to complete and defend a written M.S. thesis. These students can petition to re-take the Oral PhD Qualifier Examination while enrolled in the MS Degree Program if recommended and supported by their current research advisor. This petition will be reviewed by the Oral PhD Qualifier Committee, which will decide whether to support the petition. If the student is allowed to re-take the Oral PhD Qualifier Examination and passes it, the student will be readmitted to the PhD Degree Program after defending their MS Degree thesis. This option is only allowed one time.

Note on Scheduling Re-Examinations: Students will be able to schedule reexaminations either at 2 months or 4 months after the initial qualifier exam. The Graduate program director will schedule all re-examination(s) for a specific day or days after being notified by the student via email based on their choice of 2 or 4 months after the initial exam.

Note on Re-examination Results

After the re-examination, it may take the committee several weeks to reconvene to discuss the outcome. Students should expect this to take longer than the two weeks for the initial qualifier exam.

Duties of the Oral Qualifier Committee Chair: The oral committee chair, following a consensus meeting with all the examiners, will summarize the comments from the committee members who have examined the student and submit a consensus report to the Oral Qualifying Committee members via the Medical Physics Education Portal. After all members approve the consensus report, the report will be submitted to the Graduate program director. The Graduate program director will release individual reports to the examinees via the Medical Physics Education Portal after reports on all students taking the oral qualifier exam are received. Completion of this process will not take more than 2 weeks. It is possible that release of results could be delayed if an external examiner does not provide the results in a timely manner.

Department Requirements for the PhD Degree

PhD Candidacy

To be considered for candidacy for the PhD degree, a student must pass the PhD Qualifying Examination. The student must also have demonstrated superior promise for research and be recommended for the PhD program by the research advisor.

Clinical Pathway Coursework

Students on the Clinical Pathway take the coursework required for the Clinical/Research MS degree, including the CAMPEP Core Curriculum. Additionally, doctoral students must meet the Advanced course requirement and additional course requirements described below.

CAMPEP Core Courses		Credits
MP 501	Radiation Physics and Dosimetry	3
MP 573	Mathematical Methods in Medical Physics	3
MP 510	Fundamentals of Cellular, Molecular, and Radiation Biology	3
MP 701	Ethics & Responsible Conduct of Research & Practice of Medical Physics	1
MP 566	Physics of Radiotherapy	3
MP 578	Non-Ionizing Diagnostic Imaging	4
MP 580	The Physics of Medical Imaging with Ionizing Radiation	4
MP 569	Health Physics and Biological Effects	3
MP 671	Selected Topics in Medical Physics (Topic: Anatomy and Physiology)	2
Additional required component		
MP 581	Laboratory for Medical Imaging with Ionizing Radiation	1
MP 900	Journal Club and Seminar (4 semesters)	4
Advanced courses	In consultation with their PhD advisor/mentoring committee, student selects 9 credits coursework at the 600 level or above. At least 6 of these credits must be in MED PHYS.	9
MP990	Research credits (at least enough to reach 54 total credits)	14
Total required credits		54

Advanced Course Requirement: Students on the Clinical Pathway are required to complete 9-credits of advanced coursework prior to completion of their doctoral degree. Advanced courses are defined as those at the 600 or higher level. At least six of the advanced course credits must be from courses in the Medical Physics department. Typically this requirement is satisfied by taking two advanced courses in the 2nd year and one advanced course in the 3rd year.

Additional course requirements: In addition to the course requirements for the Clinical/Research MS degree, Clinical Pathway PhD students must take additional courses for a cumulative total of at least 54 graduate credits (greater than and including 300 level) for completion of the Ph.D. These graduate credits can include research and independent study credits, and one elective advanced course that may be taken outside of the department.

Students supported by the Radiological Sciences Training Grant must take at least one course in cancer biology, such as Oncology 401 or 703.

Interdisciplinary Pathway Coursework

Students who choose the Interdisciplinary Pathway must complete at least 54 total graduate credits. The first semester courses are MP501, MP573, MP510, and MP701, foundational courses that all Medical Physics students take. The remaining courses are graduate level electives numbered 500 or higher, selected from Medical Physics and other departments.

Foundational Courses in Medical Physics		
MP501	Radiation Physics and Dosimetry	3
MP573	Mathematical Methods in Medical Physics	3
MP510	Fundamentals of Cellular, Molecular, and Radiation Biology	3
MP701	Ethics & Responsible Conduct of Research & Practice of Medical Physics	1
Additional required component		
MP elective courses	In consultation with their advisor/committee, student selects at least 10 credits of coursework in MED PHYS.	10
Graduate elective courses	In consultation with their advisor/committee, student selects at least 15 credits of graduate-level coursework focused on their research, at the 500 level or above. This may include courses in MED PHYS.	15
MP900	Journal Club and Seminar (4 semesters)	4
MP990	Research credits (at least enough to reach 54 total credits)	15
Total required credits		54

Students supported by the Radiological Sciences Training Grant must take at least one course in cancer biology, such as Oncology 401 or 703.

Course Sequence Design: Inter-Disciplinary Pathway students should select courses in consultation with their advisor, and then seek approval from the Vice Chair of Education. See the section 'Planning a Pathway' for details. To assist in the planning process, several example sequences are provided below.

Example 2-Year Sequence for Interdisciplinary PhD

The following example is for a student focused on MRI and computational methods.

1st Semester – (Fall):

- †§ Med. Phys. 501 – Radiological Physics and Dosimetry – (3 cr.)
- †§ Med. Phys. 510 – Fundamentals of Cellular, Molecular, and Radiation Biology – (3 cr.)
- †§ Med. Phys. 573 – Medical Image Science: Mathematical and Conceptual Basis – (3 cr.)
- †§ Med. Phys. 701 – Ethics, Responsible Conduct of Research – (1 cr.)
- † Med. Phys. 900 – Journal Club and Seminar – (1 cr.)

2nd Semester – (Spring):

- Med. Phys. 674 – Medical Image Science: Applications – (3 cr.)
- § Med. Phys. 578 – Non-Ionizing Diagnostic Imaging – (4 cr.)
- Med. Phys. 530 – Medical Imaging Systems – (3 cr.)
- Comp. Sci. 540 – Introduction to Artificial Intelligence – (3 cr.)
- † Med Phys. 900 – Journal Club and Seminar – (1cr.)

3rd Semester – (Fall):

- Med. Phys. 651 – Methods for Neuroimaging Research – (3 cr.)
- Med. Phys. 710 – Advances in Medical Magnetic Resonance – (3 cr.)
- Comp. Sci. 539 – Introduction to Artificial Neural Network and Fuzzy Systems – (3 cr.)
- †§ Med. Phys. 671 -- (Special Topics) Anatomy/Physiology -- (2 cr.)
- † Med Phys. 900 – Journal Club and Seminar – (1 cr.)

4th Semester – (Spring):

- Com. Sci 540 – Introduction to Artificial Intelligence – (3 cr.)
- Stat. 525 – Linear Optimization – (3 cr.)
- Comp. Sci. 760 – Machine Learning – (3 cr.)
- † Med Phys. 900 – Journal Club and Seminar – (1 cr.)

† Required course on Inter-Disciplinary Pathway

§ Part of the CAMPEP Core Curriculum.

Example 2-Year Sequence for Interdisciplinary PhD

The following example is for a student focused on radiation therapy planning an industry career.

1st Semester – Fall:

- †§ Med. Phys. 501 – Radiological Physics and Dosimetry – (3 cr.)
- †§ Med. Phys. 510 – Fundamentals of Cellular, Molecular, and Radiation Biology – (3 cr.)
- †§ Med. Phys. 573 – Medical Image Science: Mathematical and Conceptual Basis – (3 cr.)
- †§ Med. Phys. 701 – Ethics, Responsible Conduct of Research – (1 cr.)
- † Med. Phys. 900 – Journal Club and Seminar – (1 cr.)

2nd Semester – Spring:

- § Med Phys 566 – Physics of Radiotherapy – (3 cr.)
- Med Phys 688 – Radiation Detection and Production – (4 cr.)
- § Med Phys 580 – The Physics of Medical Imaging with Ionizing Radiation – (4 cr.)
- † Med Phys 900 – Journal Club and Seminar – (1 cr.)

3rd Semester – Fall:

- Med Phys 772 – Advanced Radiation Treatment Planning – (3 cr.)
- Med Phys 679 – Radiation Physics Metrology – (3 cr.)
- Industrial and Systems Engineering 520 – Quality Assurance Systems – (3 cr.)
- † Med Phys 900 – Journal Club and Seminar – (1 cr.)

4th Semester – Spring:

- Med Phys 506 – Monte Carlo Radiation Transport – (3 cr.)
- Industrial and Systems Engineering 512 – Inspection, Quality Control, and Reliability – (3 cr.)
- Comp Sci 540 – Introduction to Artificial Intelligence – (3 cr.)
- † Med Phys 900 – Journal Club and Seminar – (1 cr.)
- Med Phys 674 – Imaging in Medicine: Applications – (3 cr.)

† Required course on Inter-Disciplinary Pathway

§ Part of the CAMPEP Core Curriculum.

Preliminary Examination

Students who pass the Oral Ph.D. Qualifying Exam and who wish to pursue the Ph.D. degree must work with a Medical Physics faculty member/affiliate willing to serve as their research advisor. Students work with their advisor(s) to discuss possible areas of thesis research and additional course work. A thesis proposal or prospectus be prepared for presentation to an examining committee in the **Preliminary Examination**, normally towards the end of the third year, or beginning of the fourth year in the program.

The purposes of this Preliminary Exam are to do the following:

- (a) determine whether the student has chosen a thesis topic and an approach that are likely to yield a successful dissertation;
- (b) estimate the student's understanding of the proposed research and competence to carry it out;
- (c) test the student's general understanding of the scientific method of research.

Purpose (a) suggests that the student should **not do** a large part of the dissertation research first, and then present it to the preliminary examination committee as a *fait accompli*. In case of failure to pass, the student's time will have been wasted. **To avoid this situation the preliminary exam is to be taken as early as practicable in the third year of graduate study.**

The exam consists of two parts for most students; the parts may be distinct (as described below) or may be combined without a break in the exam. The student will be informed of the format before the exam begins. **Part 1** is a 45-minute oral presentation by the student, detailing the research proposal as outlined in the prospectus. This is followed by **Part 2**, which is 45 minutes of questioning about the proposed research. (A **Part 3** of the exam, as described below, will be conducted for students who matriculated before 2015.)

Preliminary Exam Scheduling: Students should select their committee members, apply for their warrant and schedule their Preliminary Exam through the Education Portal <https://www.medphysics.wisc.edu/intranet/student/>. The Preliminary Exam will be conducted by an *ad-hoc committee* of a minimum of 5 members approved for each student by the Graduate program director for Medical Physics. It is recommended that members of this committee continue as the student's Thesis Committee to maximize the advantages that can be gained from this group. The student's research advisor will ordinarily be a member of the Prelim Exam Committee but may not chair it.

The graduate student, after consulting with the research advisor, will alert the Graduate program director to the need for Preliminary Exam committee formation at least **four weeks** before the earliest possible date of the exam through the Education Portal. The Educational Programs Coordinator will be notified after the committee is approved, and after all Preliminary Exam requirements are satisfied as tracked on the Education Portal. Please ensure that details Prelim Date/Time/Location, Preliminary Exam Title and for each Committee Member, their name, Net ID, Title, and Department, are updated on the Education Portal before requesting the warrant. The **Preliminary Exam Warrant** will then be requested from the Graduate School by the Educational Programs Coordinator.

The Graduate School requires a Preliminary Exam Warrant to be requested at least three weeks prior to the exam and that all course-work incompletes be resolved before requesting the Preliminary Warrant. The graduate student and research advisor should complete all requirements on the Education Portal at least **four weeks** before the earliest possible date of the exam to enable scheduling the exam to everyone's satisfaction.

Preliminary Exam Committee Composition: At least three members of the Preliminary Examination committee must have a non-zero faculty appointment in the Department of Medical

Physics. A list of non-zero faculty appointment members is available from the graduate program coordinator. The student's advisor counts as one of these members, even if they have a zero-percentage affiliate faculty appointment. The preliminary exam chair (selected by the student's research advisor) will not be the student's advisor and should be selected from one of the three Medical Physics faculty. The majority of members of the committee (at least three) must be tenured or tenure-track faculty. The minority number of members (less than half) may be from the Clinical Health Sciences (CHS) track, Clinician Teacher (CT) track, or hold a scientist position. One member shall be from outside the student's major department.

All five members must commit to participate at the scheduled exam time. Please note that Preliminary Exams typically take about two hours for the presentation, questions, discussion and deliberations.

A **prospectus** (research proposal) will be prepared by the student. The prospectus must consist of a maximum of 13 pages of single-spaced text plus figures. Please use at least an 11-point font. References do not count in the 13-page limit. The prospectus should consist of the following parts:

- a. Statement of the Research Problem and Specific Aims (1 page)
- b. Research Strategy (12 pages single spaced)
 - Significance
 - Innovation
 - Approach (for each Aim provide Preliminary Results, when available, and a Research Plan with experimental methodology, expected outcomes and pitfalls)
- c. Expected Timeline for completion
- d. References (not part of the 13-page limit)

The prospectus must be distributed to all committee members at least 2 weeks prior to the scheduled exam date, and an electronic copy of the prospectus should be uploaded to the Education Portal. All committee members are designated readers of the prospectus.

Students will be graded on the following criteria for the Preliminary Examination:

Research Proposal

- Organization of the proposal
- Clear description of peer-reviewed literature / prior research
- Clear research objectives / specific aims
- Clear expected outcome(s) and alternative strategies for each specific aim
- Proposal extends previously reported work
- Experimental or model design, statistical analysis and validation
- Quality of written proposal (grammar, spelling, clarity)

Presentation and Examination

- Organization of presented materials
- Clear and concise description of background and objectives / specific aims
- Appropriate use of communication aids and overall quality of the presentation
- Demonstrated understanding of relevant peer-reviewed literature
- Demonstrated understanding of subject matter and concepts
- Demonstrated appropriate critical thinking / reasoning skills
- Demonstrated ability to perform the proposed research

Grading for the Preliminary Examination will be performed on a 5-point scale listed below in order to provide feedback to the student.

1. Does not meet expectations (substantial deficiencies)
2. Below expectations (some deficiencies)
3. Meets expectations

4. Exceeds expectations
5. Exceptional performance

An average score of '3' from each committee member and across each category is needed to obtain a pass. Scores will be entered by each committee member immediately following the examination on the Education Portal. A score of '1' or '2' in response to any category requires a brief explanation in an associated text box. The committee will then deliberate to reach a consensus decision. Students will be provided the mean and standard deviations across categories along with consolidated comments and suggestions, if any, for improvement prepared by the committee chair.

The student must pass the Preliminary Exam in order to subsequently become a dissertator. A decision of Unconditional Pass, Conditional Pass, or Re-Examination will be made by the 5-member Preliminary Exam Committee. Four of the five members must agree with the decision for a Pass. For a Conditional Pass, the condition(s) must be clearly stated and should be completed within six months. If a student is required to be 're-examined' after the Preliminary Exam on their first attempt, the student will be given one more opportunity, within six months, to retake the exam. Following the retake, a decision of Unconditional Pass, Conditional Pass, or Fail will be made by the 5-member panel. Four of the five members must agree with the decision for a Pass. For a Conditional Pass, the condition(s) must be clearly stated and must be completed within six months. A decision of 'Fail' on a second attempt will cause the student to be transferred from the Ph.D. degree program to the terminal M.S. degree program.

Upon successful completion of all parts of the Preliminary Exam, the student's warrant will be electronically signed by the committee. In the case of a Conditional Pass, the prelim warrant will not be signed by the research advisor or submitted to the graduate school until all conditions are met. The exam must be passed completely within 6 months of the initial examination date.

Summary of Procedure for Completing the Preliminary Exam

1. Work closely with an advisor to define a research topic.
2. Complete all course requirements, including the 1-credit Medical Physics ethics course (MP701)
3. Write a research prospectus in a grant application format.
4. At least four weeks before the prelim exam, present a proposed five-member prelim committee and chair to the Graduate program director for approval.
5. Be sure there are no Incompletes (or "NR" entries) on the academic record.
6. Four weeks before the Preliminary Exam, update the Education Portal with the information required to secure a Preliminary Exam Warrant. The Preliminary Warrant Request needs to be requested from the Graduate School at least three weeks prior to the exam.

The following conditions must be met before the request for the warrant can be made. Students are advised to begin addressing them at least four (or more) weeks before the expected preliminary exam date.

- a) The student must have no course grades of "incomplete" (or "NR") on their record.
- b) The 1-credit ethics course requirement (MP701) must be completed.
7. At least two weeks before the preliminary exam, deliver the prospectus to the Prelim Committee by uploading it to the Medical Physics department portal.
8. The day of the preliminary exam, the Educational Programs Coordinator will send the warrant to the committee for e-signatures. Once it is signed, the Educational Programs Coordinator will submit it to the Graduate School.

Responsibilities of Chair Person and Faculty on the Ph.D. Prelim Committee

1. The prospectus has to be distributed at least 14 days before preliminary examination so that there is adequate time to thoroughly read it.
2. The Research Advisor designates a primary Faculty from the Medical Physics department as the Chair of the Preliminary Examination committee
3. Oral exam for the research proposal. This component for most students consists of two parts.
 - a. **Part 1** is a 45-minute presentation, giving an overview of significance of proposed research, Specific Aims and Preliminary Results.
 - b. **Part 2** is a question and answer session of 45 minute(s). The committee is to probe more deeply into the salient points of the proposed research to be conducted by the candidate.
 - c. For students who matriculated before 2015, the committee will conduct **Part 3** of the examination, which may consist of up to one hour of questions to further probe the candidate's knowledge of general Medical Physics principles, but not necessarily on the proposal itself. Graduate students who have to take Part 3 should schedule an additional hour for their Preliminary Examination.
4. The Preliminary Exam committee chairperson must notify the graduate student, committee members, Educational Programs Coordinator, Graduate program director, and Department Chair of the outcome of the Preliminary Exam via the Education Portal. In the case of a conditional pass, the warrant must not be signed by the research advisor or submitted to the Graduate School until all conditions are met. The Preliminary Exam committee chair or advisor must notify the graduate student, committee members, Educational Programs Coordinator, Graduate program director, and Department Chair using the Education Portal when these conditions are met. The signed warrant is then submitted to the Graduate School (electronically by the Educational Programs Coordinator.)
5. The Preliminary Exam committee will meet regularly to discuss research progress for a student with a conditional pass until the student is admitted to dissertator status.

Dissertator Status

When a student has completed all required courses for the Ph.D. and has passed the Preliminary Examination, the student becomes a dissertator. As such, the student should only register for a total of 3 graded graduate level credits per semester. The 3 credits are usually in Medical Physics 990 (Research) but can include 1-3 credits of formal course work and/or Rad Labs related to the student's research, if approved by the student's advisor. This level of registration must be maintained continuously for spring, summer and fall semesters until the dissertation is completed and deposited to the Graduate School. **Failure to maintain such continuous registration will result in a penalty equal to the registration fee of 12 credits at the time the dissertation is deposited.**

Note: A dissertator is required to register for 3 credits per semester to qualify for an RA appointment. Audit and Pass/Fail courses are not allowed.

Dissertator status must be achieved by the appropriate deadline, generally before the first day of classes in a given semester, in order to qualify for the 3-credit requirement in that semester.

Annual meeting(s) with Dissertation committee:

Each dissertator must schedule annual meetings with their dissertation committee to present a progress report on research activities. The committee will evaluate research progress and provide feedback on research direction. The Preliminary Exam committee chair will provide a brief summary of the deliberations and upload this to the Education Portal.

Research Seminar Presentation Requirement

The student is expected to deliver a 30-minute seminar on their doctoral dissertation research before graduation. To schedule this presentation, contact the Course Instructor for MP900 to pick your presentation date. If you are unable to hold your seminar within the MP900 course, then you should work with your advisor to find a convenient date. This seminar will consist of at least a 20-minute oral presentation with the remainder of the time scheduled for questions. It is NOT meant to be a repeat or a preview of the dissertation defense presentation. At a minimum, there should be at least 5 minutes left for questions. The seminar will consist of the following parts:

- Background for general understanding. This should be a general review of the given area of study.
- Problem the student is seeking to solve. Why was this a problem in the area of study?
- Method(s) utilized to solve the problem
- Results & Conclusions

A general guideline would be to allot 5 minutes for each of the above sections.

Graduate Faculty Executive Committee Doctoral Dissertation Policy

The Graduate Faculty Executive Committee (GFEC), the governance body responsible for graduate education policy at UW-Madison, has the following minimum requirements for doctoral dissertation committee membership and collaboration as outlined on their web-page <https://grad.wisc.edu/documents/committees/>. The Medical Physics program at UW-Madison employs more rigorous requirements, which are outlined in detail below.

Final Dissertation Oral Defense

Upon completion of the research, the student is required to write a satisfactory dissertation reporting the results. A final dissertation oral defense on the contents of the dissertation will be done by a faculty committee representing the Medical Physics Department. This final dissertation oral defense may not be taken until all other requirements for the degree have been satisfied, the student's record is clear of incomplete grades, and at least 1 year has passed since taking the Preliminary Exam. The final dissertation oral defense must be completed within 5 years after passing the Preliminary Exam.

Writing research reports and authoring or co-authoring research publications is a critical part of Ph.D. training. All doctoral students are **required** to have *at least* one first-author, peer-reviewed journal publication or a submitted manuscript under peer-review in their area of research prior to their dissertation defense.

Doctoral Dissertation

Details on the formatting (thesis style) and other UW-Madison Graduate School requirements for doctoral dissertation are available at: <https://grad.wisc.edu/current-students/doctoral-guide/>. A doctoral dissertation should at a minimum contain the following components.

- Abstract
- Introduction, Problem Statement, Dissertation Outline
- A comprehensive Literature Review, and statement of how the dissertator's research contributed new knowledge to the field.
- Around 3-4 chapters describing the original research performed to address the problem statement. Typically, each of these chapters should be publishable as a peer-reviewed journal paper.
- A Conclusion or Summary Chapter describing the new/novel contributions of the dissertation.
- Possible future work in this research area.
- Bibliography

Currently, the Graduate School allows departments to choose their own reference style. Many students follow the NIH grant format for references, and an example is shown below. It works well to use single-spaces within an entry and double spaces between entries.

1. Chen H, Varghese T, Rahko PS, and Zagzebski JA, Ultrasound Frame Rate Requirements for Cardiac Elastography: Experimental and in-vivo Results, *Ultrasonics*, 2009; 49 (1), 98-111.

The Graduate School, however, does have final say on the dissertation style and the student has to follow those directions.

Dissertation Defense: The candidate will present their dissertation work to an Oral Defense Committee consisting of five or more members of the graduate faculty, with the research advisor serving as chairperson. The members of the Oral Defense Committee are selected by the candidate's advisor and the Chair of the Graduate Committee. This committee must be approved by the Graduate School. The student is responsible for scheduling the defense time, and should schedule it to last for two hours.

Composition of the Final Dissertation Oral Defense Committee

Oral Defense Committees (sometimes called "Graduate Advisory Committees" or "Degree Committees") advise and evaluate satisfactory progress, administer preliminary and final examinations, evaluate a thesis or dissertation, and/or sign a degree warrant.

For the latest detailed information on UW Graduate School requirements for graduate committee makeup, please check the Graduate School web page on [Committees](#). The following is edited for Medical Physics:

The Executive Committee of the Medical Physics Department is responsible for approving the composition of all graduate committees. At least three members of the dissertation committee should have a non-zero appointment in the Medical Physics department.

Graduate School requirements for thesis committees (edited for Med Physics) are as follows:

1. The chair or co-chair of the committee must be Graduate Faculty from the student's program, *i.e.*, from Medical Physics. UW-Madison Faculty Policies and Procedures Section 3.05A stipulates that "the faculty of the Graduate School includes all university faculty defined in holding professional rank (professor, associate professor, assistant professor or instructor) in any department with graduate program authority, including those with zero-time appointments in such departments." Committee members who have retired or resigned from the University automatically retain Graduate Faculty status for one year; after one year they are permitted to serve as co-chair or other non-Graduate Faculty committee members.
2. Final Dissertation Oral Defense Committees must have at least 5 members, 3 of whom (and a majority if there are more than 5 members) must be UW-Madison tenured/tenure-track graduate faculty or former UW-Madison graduate faculty up to one year after resignation or retirement.

At least one of 5 members must be from outside of the student's major program. At least 3 members must have a non-zero faculty appointment in the Department of Medical Physics.

3. The required 5th member of a Final Dissertation Oral Defense Committee, as well as any additional members, retains voting rights. They may be from any of the following categories, as approved by the program Executive Committee (or its equivalent): graduate faculty, faculty from a department without a graduate program, academic staff (including emeritus faculty), visiting faculty, faculty from other institutions, scientists, research associates, and other individuals deemed qualified by the executive committee (or its equivalent).
4. To receive a Ph.D. degree, students can receive no more than one dissenting vote from their committee.

Steps to Follow When Setting up the Final Dissertation Oral Defense

Scheduling the Final Defense:

The final dissertation oral defense can be scheduled during the fall, spring or summer semesters via the Education Portal. Please note, however, it is Medical Physics policy that there will be no defenses during the last two weeks of a semester. This blackout period includes the week preceding finals week and the week of final examinations itself.

A defensible doctoral dissertation draft must be uploaded to the Education Portal at least **21 days** prior to the defense date. The dissertation defense will move forward, and a final warrant will **only be requested** from the Graduate School after the dissertation draft is uploaded. The Graduate School generally requires 21 days to process a warrant request. The dissertation should be a complete and final draft, and it should clearly communicate the scientific aspects of the research. The uploaded dissertation draft will be made available electronically to the Final Dissertation Oral Defense Committee from the Education Portal (hard copy is not recommended due to the high cost of printing). The dissertation will be evaluated based on this submitted draft and no further revision will be allowed prior to the defense. All committee members are designated readers of the dissertation draft.

Ph.D. Warrant: After uploading and distributing the dissertation draft, and three weeks prior to the final dissertation defense examination, a final warrant must be requested. The student indicates a request for the final warrant in the Education Portal to the Educational Programs Coordinator. After the Educational Programs Coordinator requests the warrant, the Graduate

School will issue this, listing the defense date and the committee members. The Educational Programs Coordinator will electronically distribute the warrant the morning of the scheduled defense. Then it will be electronically signed by the members of the Final Dissertation Defense Committee after a successful defense or when any needed corrections/additions are made.

If any changes are made in the membership of the Final Dissertation Defense Committee a revised Final Dissertation Defense Committee form must be submitted and approved via the Education Portal before the defense. Changes in dissertation title or date do not require a revised form.

The Final Dissertation Defense consists of two parts. During Part I, the candidate delivers a 45-minute presentation, giving an overview of the dissertation work and highlighting aspects that are important or significant. Questions during this period are usually to clarify points in the presentation or in the dissertation itself. Part I is open to Medical Physics faculty and students.

Part II is a question and answer session, lasting another ~45 minutes. During Part II, the Final Dissertation Committee probes more deeply into salient points of the dissertation as well as research related to that of the candidate. Part II is attended only by the candidate and the examining committee. The candidate then leaves the room for the committee's deliberations.

Students will be graded on the following criteria for the Final Dissertation Defense

Dissertation

- Demonstrates clear understanding of prior literature
- Extends previously reported work in specific research area
- Adequately describes and justifies research findings for each specific aim such that they could be independently reproduced
- Demonstrates a completion of the proposed specific aims (modified by research direction)
- Organization of the dissertation
- Quality of writing (grammar, spelling, clarity)
- Overall quality of the research
- Overall rigor of research components (theoretical/simulation/experimental/translational)
- Published results in peer-reviewed journal(s) or clear publication potential
- Recognized and applied principles of ethical and scientific / professional conduct of research

Presentation and Examination

- Organization of presented materials
- Clear and concise description of background and objectives / specific aims
- Appropriate use of communication aids and overall quality of the presentation
- Demonstrated understanding of relevant peer-reviewed literature
- Demonstrated understanding of subject matter and concepts
- Demonstrated appropriate critical thinking / reasoning skills
- Demonstrated an ability to synthesize knowledge

Grading for the Final Defense will be performed on a 3-point scale.

- 1- Does not meet expectations
- 2- Meets expectations
- 3- Exceeds expectations

An average score of '2' from each committee member and across each category is needed to obtain a pass. Scores will be entered by each committee member immediately following the examination on the Education Portal. A score of '1' in response to any category requires a brief explanation in an associated text box. The committee will then deliberate to reach a consensus

decision. Students will be provided the mean and standard deviations across categories along with consolidated comments and suggestions for improvement prepared by the committee chair.

After the Final Defense: The research advisor has to update the Education Portal on the outcome of the examination, finally when the final dissertation is completed. Successful completion of the final defense examination is followed by any final modifications to the dissertation. The dissertator has 30 days after the successful completion of the dissertation defense to upload a final version of the dissertation to the Medical Physics Education Portal. Committee member(s) who provide(s) scientific corrections to the dissertation draft will not sign the final warrant until the corrections approved by the committee during the defense have been completed. Corrections to the dissertation should be discussed with the committee member(s) requesting the changes. The dissertator should also upload an electronic version of the signed warrant to the Education Portal and all related information.

The dissertation must subsequently be deposited by the Graduate School's deadline if the student wishes to avoid having to register as a dissertator for the following semester. Go to [The Graduate School Guide to Preparing your Doctoral Dissertation](#).

Please submit a complete electronic copy of the dissertation to the Medical Physics Department administrative support staff. The Medical Physics Department will pay for binding copies of the dissertation for the Medical Physics Library, the Ph.D. recipient's advisor(s), and the recipient. If the Ph.D. recipient wishes to purchase additional copies for themselves or for their family members, they may do so at this time by contacting and arranging payment with the department administrative staff.

An electronic copy of the dissertation abstract should also be uploaded to the Education Portal (use the MS-word template and also e-mail to the Educational Programs Coordinator).

Summary of the Requirements for the Ph.D. Degree in Medical Physics

The Ph.D. degree is awarded after the student has finished their dissertation and has fulfilled all other requirements for the degree. The following list summarizes these requirements.

- a) Completion of the course requirements for the M.S. Degree in Medical Physics, plus such additional course work as may be specified by the student's advisor.
- b) Pass the Oral Ph.D. Qualifying Examination.
- c) Completion of the necessary credits in advanced coursework.
- d) Completion of a total of at least 54 graduate level credits, including the courses in a) and c), research credits, and other elective courses.
- e) An overall graduate-level grade-point average of 3.0 (B), not including research credits (990).
- f) Pass the Preliminary Examination.
- g) Presentation of a departmental seminar (usually during MP 900) on the dissertation topic.
- h) Completion of any courses or other conditions made by the committee during the Preliminary Examination.
- i) One first-author, peer-reviewed journal publication or a submitted manuscript under peer-review in area of research.
- j) Completion and defense of Ph.D. dissertation.
- k) Deposit electronic copy as required by the Graduate School.
- l) Send pdf of final dissertation to the Medical Physics department administration staff and request 3 bound copies.
- m) Send the signed final defense warrant to the Medical Physics Educational Programs Coordinator and upload it to the Education Portal.

Responsibilities of Faculty on Final Dissertation Defense Committees

1. A defensible doctoral dissertation draft should be distributed at least **21 days** before a scheduled defense date to allow adequate time for committee members to thoroughly read the dissertation. The dissertation should be a complete, final draft and should be grammatically acceptable.
2. Check for one first author, peer reviewed journal publication or submitted manuscript under peer-review in the student's area of research. The student should provide an electronic copy of the publication to members of the committee. The warrant should not be signed if this prerequisite is not satisfied.
3. The Final Dissertation Oral Defense consists of two parts.
 - a. **Part 1** is a 45-minute presentation, giving an overview of the research aims, highlighting areas that have been completed based on the Specific Aims of the preliminary examination.
 - b. **Part 2** is a question and answer session for 45 minutes. The committee will probe more deeply into the salient points of the dissertation and the research conducted by the candidate.
4. The student will complete any corrections requested to the dissertation draft. The student's advisor will not sign the warrant until the student satisfactorily completes revisions / corrections to the dissertation requested by the committee. After the final version of the dissertation is approved, the student's advisor will update the Education Portal confirming the dissertation is complete.
5. To receive a Ph.D. degree, students can receive no more than one dissenting vote from their committee. Committee members who feel that the dissertation defense does not meet acceptable standards will have to then sign the dissent line indicated on the dissertation warrant and justify their dissenting view of the dissertation.

Requirements of the Graduate School for the Ph.D. Degree in Medical Physics

[Requirements of the Graduate School](#) must be satisfied in addition to those of the department, including requirements for [minimum](#) and [maximum credits per term](#). More information can be found here: ***Graduate School Academic Guidelines***. As of Fall, 2022, the graduate school credit requirements state, “The Graduate School considers full-time enrollment to be 8-15 graded credits taken at 300 or above, excluding pass/fail and audit, during the fall and spring semesters, and 4-12 credits during the summer term. Dissertators are considered full-time at 3 credits.”. Regarding summer enrollment, it states, “The Graduate School does set lower minimum enrollment levels for some assistantships. Students should confirm minimum enrollment loads with their employing department.”

Graduation for Ph.D. Degree Students

Students must be registered for 3 graded graduate level credits during the semester in which they graduate. In order to graduate, students must not have any grades of incomplete and have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0. They must also fulfill the Minimum Credit Requirement of the Graduate School. Information on [commencement ceremonies](#) can be obtained on the UW-Madison website. **The Commencement Hotline number is 262-9076.**

Degree Certification

Sometimes students need written verification that they do indeed have their degree prior to the time that they actually receive their degree certificate in the mail. Students may request a [degree certification letter](#) from the Registrar’s Office. The signed Ph.D. warrant needs to be turned into the Graduate School and processed before the Registrar’s Office will know that you have completed your degree. The degrees are processed one time after the semester has ended in December, May or August. Due to the volume of degrees awarded, it will take approximately three to four months after the semester has ended before you will receive your hard copy degree certificate.

Department Criteria for Satisfactory Progress

Students with Financial Assistance

For a graduate student in the Medical Physics Department who is a research assistant, fellow or trainee, to be making satisfactory progress, the student must:

- 1) Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 for all courses taken while in the Medical Physics program and for all Department of Medical Physics courses. All research courses and all courses with grades of P, F, S or U are excluded from the average.
- 2) Acquire a research advisor by the beginning of the second semester.
- 3) Have taken the Oral Ph.D. Qualifier Examination before the fifth semester of study. If a pass is not obtained on the first attempt, the second (and last) attempt to pass the qualifier examination must be made no later than the end of the 5th semester.

A student who fails the Oral Ph.D. Qualifying Examination and re-examination will be transferred from the Ph.D. degree program to the terminal M.S. degree program, where they will need to complete and defend a written M.S. thesis.

In addition to the above, a Ph.D. candidate must:

1. Pass the preliminary examination by the end of the third year.
2. Make satisfactory progress in their dissertation research work, as judged by the advisor.
3. Satisfy all Graduate School requirements including the minimum credit requirement.
4. Produce at least one first-author, peer-reviewed journal publication or a submitted manuscript under peer-review in your area of research.
5. Present a departmental seminar on the Ph.D. dissertation topic.
6. Defend the Ph.D. dissertation by the end of the 7th year of graduate study. A candidate failing to pass the final oral examination within 5 years after passing the preliminary examination must retake and pass the preliminary examination to continue in dissertation status.
7. Submit the final complete dissertation to the Graduate School.
8. Send an electronic copy to the Medical Physics Department Administrative Support Staff. Three bound copies of the dissertation will be made, and one copy will be kept in the Department Library.
9. Submit required exit forms via the Educational Portal or to the Medical Physics Educational Programs Coordinator.

Students with No Financial Assistance

For a graduate student in the Medical Physics Department who is not a research assistant, fellow or trainee, to be making satisfactory progress, the student must:

- 1) Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 for all courses taken while in the Medical Physics program and for all Department of Medical Physics courses. All research courses and all courses with grades of P, F, S or U are excluded from the average.
- 2) Follow Graduate School minimum course enrollment requirements
<https://grad.wisc.edu/documents/enrollment-requirements/>.

Satisfactory Progress Regarding the Graduate School

Graduate students are reminded that they must also make satisfactory progress as defined by the Graduate School. (See the current Graduate School Academic Guidelines, <http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiesandrequirements>.)

Probation

The graduate school requires that students maintain a graduate-point average (GPA) of 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale) for all graduate courses (excluding research) to receive a degree. If this GPA is not met, the student will be placed on probation. Failure in the first semester of probation to obtain a 3.0 average for the semester and a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 will result in termination unless the student's advisor requests, and the department and the Graduate School approves, continued enrollment.

Useful Information about the Medical Physics Department

General Information

The **Department of Medical Physics** Administration Office is located at 1111 Highland Avenue, Room 1005 in the Wisconsin Institutes for Medical Research (WIMR) Tower I. Announcements for general campus information, events notices, course information, financial aid information, and job announcements are posted near the mailboxes and/or at the main entrance to the department. Student mailboxes are located in the hallway behind the main office. Course descriptions and other information about the program are available on the department's web site.

Reserving a conference room

The Department's primary **Conference Rooms** are 1190 and 1121 in WIMR-1 and 2409 in WIMR-2. Meetings and some social functions of the department are held in these rooms. To reserve a conference room for meetings or to schedule it for a dissertation defense, utilize the Room Reservation System or contact Joya Anderson at 262-2171 or the Administration team at 265-6116.

Need a letter?

There may be times when you need a letter from the department. Examples of such requests include verification of full-time student status for a professional membership, verification of degree requirements completed by the department (versus the University) for a residency program, verification of student status for reduced conference registration fee, verification of income for a loan, letter of appeal for late enrollment. We have a tab in your student portal (Tab 10) on the Medical Physics intranet to do so. Please use this form whenever you need to request a letter from the Department of Medical Physics.

Radiation Monitors

Students working with radioactive materials or radiation sources in courses and research must wear radiation monitors. **Students should check with their Advisor to see if they are required to get a badge.** To obtain your Radiation Dosimetry Badges/Rings, you will need to take a radiation safety training class. Radiation Safety for Radiation Workers ("RSRW") training consists of a 2-part training module, made up of both an online and an in-person section. Certification for acquiring a badge requires completion of both Parts I and II. Training details can be found online. After completing the course, you may apply for a personal radiation dosimeter by navigating to the following [website](#).

Periodically, your expired radiation monitor needs to be returned and exchanged for your new radiation monitor. Your monitor must be worn when you are working with radioactive materials. New monitors are distributed on a regular basis, at which time your old monitor needs to be returned. You will be responsible for paying for lost monitors. Please return them promptly.

University phone/fax lines

University **phone lines** are for **official university purposes only**. To dial a number on campus, you dial the seven digits of the number. To reach an outside local line, dial "1" then the seven digit number. For long distance calls, dial a 1 + 1 + the area code + the seven digits.

The phone number for the **fax machine** in the department is (608) 262-2413. If you are expecting a fax, please have the sender identify your name on the top of the document.

Address Changes

When your **address changes**, you will need to notify the Medical Physics Administrative Support Staff and/or Educational Programs Coordinator and also update the University's records in your MyUW at the University's web page located at: <http://www.wisc.edu>.

Grievance Policies

The School of Medicine and Public Health has a detailed grievance policy for graduate programs, which can be found [here](#). The policy provides guidance for any student in a SMPH graduate

program who feels that they have been treated unfairly by a faculty member, staff member, postdoc, or student. The policy provides the right to complain about the treatment and to receive a prompt hearing of the grievance. The grievance advisor or program director listed online in the Guide and in this handbook may be approached for possible grievances of all types. They will spearhead the grievance response process for issues specific to the graduate program, including but not limited to academic standing, progress to degree, professional activities, appropriate advising, and a program's community standards. They will ensure students are advised on reporting procedures for other types of possible grievances and are supported throughout the reporting process. Any student who discusses, inquiries about, or participates in the grievance procedure may do so openly and shall not be subject to intimidation, discipline, or retaliation because of such activity.

Getting Involved

Medical Physics Outreach Committee

Mission Statement

The Medical Physics Graduate Student Outreach program aims to increase the visibility of medical physics by teaching community members about the role of physics in medicine as well as the educational and career opportunities in physics-based careers. Our focus is directed to the next generation of curious thinkers, especially under-represented groups in medical physics, by engaging them in conversation and hands-on medical physics activities. It is led by medical physics graduate students with the support of faculty and staff.

COMMITTEE EMAIL - outreach@medphysics.wisc.edu

Joining the AAPM

Since you have chosen to enter the field of Medical Physics, you should strongly consider joining the AAPM as a student member. There are many advantages to joining AAPM as a student. These advantages include, but are not limited to, decreased registration fees at AAPM meetings, online or paper subscriptions to the Medical Physics journal, an annually renewed Membership Directory, an annual Salary Survey (great incentive for completing your degree), and access to a list of current Medical Physics job openings. Joining is easy; download the application from www.aapm.org/memb/prospect/studentapp.asp, fill it out, and email the form to membership@aapm.org. Along with your application, you will need to request a proof-of-enrollment letter from the Medical Physics department to be sent to the same email address. The current student membership dues for 2022 are \$50. The membership dues are usually waived for the first year, however a \$25 application fee is required. Additionally, it is strongly encouraged to join the North Central Chapter of the AAPM (NCCAAPM) during the AAPM application process to receive emails and updates of local meetings and student competitions.

Travel Questions

Who do I talk to about travel?

First, you'll need to get permission from your advisor. There is a pre-travel form available on the Medical Physics Educational Portal you'll have to fill out. It asks where you're going, what you'll be doing and to estimate the cost of your trip. This will be an estimate, utilize [Concur](#) to take a look at available flights and costs, as well as the online calculator tool (found [here](#)) to estimate Per Diem and lodging maximums based on location and travel dates.

Second, depending on where your funding is coming from, you can come to the Med Physics office to book travel and registration with Administration team staff. If your funding is not Medical Physics funding you may have to work with coordinators in other departments to book travel. It's usually a good idea to start with the Administration team, even if you ultimately have to work with someone else.

Finally, if you are receiving a reward from the conference or the UW to use for travel, contact Mary Pierce (pierce6@wisc.edu). She can help you figure out the best way to approach that with the finance department.

What information do I need to know in order to book travel?

First and foremost, you'll need to know the funding string being used to cover the cost of this trip. You can get this information from your advisor, but it should also be on the pre-travel form, so the best practice would be to just fill that form out first. Second, you will need to know the conference dates, and location.

Can I book travel on my own?

You definitely can, however it is not recommended. The e-reimbursement system (located [here](#)) can take time depending on the expense, and e-reimbursements for travel expenses are taken care of only after you return from your trip, so the possibility of carrying around large expenses on your personal credit cards is very real. Keep in mind also that you absolutely must book your flights through Concur, the University travel agency. If you do not do this, you will not be reimbursed.

If a business flight is booked on a department credit card, be sure that you are sending the invoice to the admin who helped you book the flight to ensure that the charge is reconciled in a timely manner.

Do I have to use a specific website or service to book travel?

Yes. Airfare must be booked through Concur (the website Travel Incorporated) or over the phone through a Travel Incorporated agent. Hotels can be reserved through Concur/Travel Incorporated, or through the conference/workshop website.

Air BnB is now allowed by UW policy as of July 1, 2020. The total cost (including all taxes and fees) is still subject to the per diem rate. However, any travel expense purchased through any other method (Expedia, Travelocity, directly through the airline, etc.) is **not allowable and will not be reimbursed**.

Can I use a department card to pay for lodging?

Yes, you can, with a few exceptions. First, know that when booking hotels, the credit card you use to secure the reservation is not the one they will charge when you arrive,

so you are welcome to book with your own card or the department card, typically it will not make a difference.

If you wish to use a department credit card to pay for the hotel upon checkout, you will need to contact the hotel to see if they offer a credit card authorization form. If they do, please have them forward that information to the Administration team member or another travel coordinator (depending on which department is funding your travel) so that they can take care of this for you. Keep in mind that hotels cannot be prepaid using a department card. If they require this, it cannot go on the department card, and you will have to pay your own way and be reimbursed later for it.

Is it possible to add time to my trip or maybe travel to neighboring cities after I am done with my school affiliated travel?

Sure, as long as you provide an airfare cost comparison, and have cleared it with your advisor. If you are booking travel with personal time prior to or after your UW-related business (conference, workshop, etc), you must include an airfare cost comparison.

You can do this by calling Concur/Travel Incorporated (470) 589-2205 and speaking with an agent directly, or saving a time-stamped page of flight options similar to your personal flight for dates relevant to business travel. If you call, let them know you are calling from the UW-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health and that you need a price comparison. They will need to know the dates of business related travel and whatever other additions you might need. They will e-mail you a flight comparison. You must then book your flight within 24 hours of receiving your comparison. If your comparison is outside of that time frame, it is considered invalid, and you will not be reimbursed. Best practice is to simply make the purchase over the phone when you are obtaining your comparison, but you are welcome to use the online web application (Concur) to do this, if that is your preference.

If your airfare (with personal time) exceeds the cost of airfare directly to and from the conference, the department card can only be used to pay for the amount of the comparison airfare. You are responsible for the cost of the difference.

When do I need CISI Travel Insurance?

Any time you are travelling abroad for business, you are required to enroll in CISI for the full duration of your stay, even if you are adding personal time (if your personal time spent abroad is less than 30 days total). You can be reimbursed for CISI, or connect with Mary Pierce to put the charges directly on a department card. If you are travelling with others from the same lab and using the same funding, Mary can also do a group enrollment instead of everyone having to take the time to enroll individually.

<https://studyabroad.wisc.edu/health-safety/cisi-insurance/>

Can my spouse/significant other/parent/or sibling travel with me? If so, how?

Yes, this is possible. However, the department cannot cover any companion travel costs. You may still use Travel Incorporated for their airfare, either through Concur if you are booking their airfare separately, or over the phone if you are booking both tickets together (this is probably the better option).

Do I need to keep my receipts?

Some of them. As a general rule, keep anything you're unsure about. Receipts do not need to be kept for meals but cab fare, parking, lodging, and most anything else that is reimbursable, a receipt might be required. Many expenses under \$25 will not require a receipt for reimbursement, but it's usually better to have more information than required when it comes to reimbursements. More information on receipts can be found in the travel section of the intranet [here](#).

Do I need to be an authorized driver to rent a car or be reimbursed for parking/driving for school affiliated travel?

Yes. If you plan on driving, renting a vehicle (please see the Administration team member before you do this), or even being reimbursed for parking for your personal vehicle at the airport, you must be an authorized driver for the department in the Approved Driver Database. You can fill out the online form [here](#), and any questions regarding this process should be directed towards Debbie Beich in Risk Management (608/262-8926). Keep in mind you must renew your application yearly, so it is a good habit to get into at the beginning of the fall semester.

After I travel, how do I get reimbursed for my personal expenses?

To be reimbursed, you must initiate an expense report [here](#). For more information on how to ensure you are creating a complete expense report, follow [this link](#). You can also delegate entry authority to an admin depending on what funding you are using. When in doubt feel free to reach out to Mary Pierce who can review your report with you and make edits. To allow her access to your report, you must delegate her entry authority and make her aware of the report. Do not submit your report until she has had a chance to review it. More information on Medical Physics Travel Information is [here](#) on the Intranet.

Where can I find more about Travel Policies and resources?

The UW system has a very helpful site which collects all policies, resources, and other pertinent information, and is frequently updated with new policies as they appear. You can find it [here](#).

Who to ask for help for concerns on research misconduct or harassing and intimidating behavior (HIB)?

Our department and the University of Wisconsin-Madison takes these issues seriously. If you have concerns regarding research misconduct or HIB, 1st consider talking to your advisor. If you feel uncomfortable doing that, reach out to someone in your mentoring committee, or the chair of Medical Physics. If you want to talk to someone outside Medical Physics, the Dean of Students Office is prepared to help. In this handbook, page 2 ("Professional Conduct and Ethical Behavior Statement") has links to UW-Madison guidelines for reporting research misconduct and in page 14 (Personal Safety, Harassment Discrimination and Diversity/Inclusion) for reporting HIB and to the Dean of Students Office.

Who to Ask For Help?

Educational Programs Coordinator: Applications, Graduate School policies and procedures, all warrant information, degree progression & requirements, graduation information, T32 training grant administration, timetable and course planning information, course evaluations, syllabi, alumni information

Graduate program director or Program Director (Department Chair): Specific information regarding policies and procedures involving Oral Qualifier Exam, Prelim Exam, Defense Exam, degree requirements, etc.

Administrative Team/Staff Support: Travel, shipping, cubicle assignments, after-hours access, keys, conference related purchasing, radiation badges and rings, social media, room reservations, office supplies, miscellaneous questions.

Assistant to the Chair: Schedule appointments with the Department Chair, scheduling rooms, student status letters to attend professional meetings, etc.

Faculty Advisor: Curriculum advising, research, career decisions, official approvals for academic actions, information about the discipline of Medical Physics, student desks/office space, etc.

Research Administrator: Faculty and student grant notifications, administration and support

Grants Administration: Post-award administration, budget and other support

Communications: Program promotion, recognition of your accomplishments, awards, milestones, social media

Human Resources Specialist: HIPAA compliance documentation, I-9, VISAs, RA/TA/PA, trainee, fellowship appointment set-up

Payroll & Benefits Specialist: Insurance information, payroll

Financial Specialists: Fiscal activities, purchasing lab related supplies

Academic/diversity/inclusion concerns/appeals: Department Administrator

UW-Madison Alumni Association

The University of Wisconsin – Madison Alumni Association has initiated a Career Connections program, which offers alumni and students the chance to meet established professionals from whom they can obtain valuable career information. It is not a job placement or recruiting service, but rather an opportunity for students to network and conduct informal interviews. Students who use the program will be connected to alumni who work in the occupational field they wish to pursue. Contacts can range from a brief phone conversation to joining someone for a “day on the job.” The service also offers workshops and seminars. Contact the Wisconsin Alumni Association, 608-262-2551 or <http://www.uwalumni.com> for more information.

The Association also offers an economical short-term health insurance plan for graduating students.

Campus Resources

The Division of Information Technology (DoIT)

DoIT coordinates instructional and research computing facilities, computer education, and electronic mail accounts for the entire University community. DoIT operates computer labs all over the campus, but its main site is at 1210 W. Dayton Street, where there are terminals, printers, graphics output devices, other peripherals, and computing resources as well as consultants. DoIT regularly introduces its services by providing short, non-credit courses, and students can also take advantage of free peer training classes. The Microcomputer Information Center (MIC) houses a variety of microcomputers, printers, other peripherals, and software. MIC staff are available for consultation on hardware and software options and provide information about discounts available to students, user groups, bulletin boards, and other information services. Journals and other literature are available. MIC services are generally free. The microcomputer lab rents time on microcomputers, letter-quality printers, and laser printers. A Printing Services Card is required for computer printing. For more information, pick up the DoIT resource catalog, which is published every semester.
<http://www.doit.wisc.edu>

Email

Graduate students are assigned an official email account so they can communicate electronically with students, staff, and professors on campus and colleagues at universities and corporations in 120 countries. This official 'wisc.edu' email address should be used for all official university and department business activities. Email from this address should not be forwarded automatically to other outside email accounts. Students are responsible for all official department and University information sent to their @wisc.edu e-mail address.

MyUW

MyUW is the indispensable campus resource for online information and access to essential communication tools – from e-mail and calendaring to course enrollment to billing to easily accessible information for students and advisors.

Writing Center

The **UW Writing Center** provides free, non-credit instruction and individual consultation on all types of writing assignments, from simple papers to doctoral dissertations. Many students have found the Center's staff to be quite helpful for writing research papers and constructing dissertation proposals.

Students may make an individual appointment for consultation with an experienced instructor who can help organize ideas, point out possible problems in a draft, or offer advice about revision. Students who need intensive work on their writing can obtain help by scheduling ongoing meetings with an instructor in order to work in a sustained way.

The Center's non-credit courses review basic principles of writing and introduce common forms of academic writing. Course topics include research papers, essay exams, grammar review, review of academic writing for returning adult students, improving style, book reviews, graduate research proposals, critiques of research articles, and more.

The Center is located at 6171 Helen C. White Hall; the phone number is 263-1992. Detailed information and on-line registration are available via the Center's web site at <http://writing.wisc.edu>. You can contact them by e-mail at writing@wisc.edu.

Library

UW-Madison has more than 100 libraries across campus. Library tours are available upon request. To schedule a tour, contact the individual library. Phone and e-mail contact information for campus libraries is available at <http://www.library.wisc.edu/libraries>. For a list of Workshops from the Universities Libraries', visit: a specific library, click on features.

Ebling Library

Most Medical Physics faculty and students use the UW Health Sciences Ebling Library. The address is 750 Highland Avenue, and their phone number is 262-2020. You can access the Ebling Library at <http://ebling.library.wisc.edu/>.

Electronic Library

Through the **Electronic Library**, it is easy to search more than 5.5 million holdings in the campus libraries and more than 30 million journal citations. You can connect to the Electronic Library from your office or home to find out what's on the shelves, to use e-mail reference, or to renew and recall materials. The Electronic Library can be accessed at <http://www.library.wisc.edu>.

Library Express

The **Library Express** document delivery and interlibrary loan service supports the instructional, research and scholarly activities of UW-Madison faculty, staff and students. You can access it at <http://www.library.wisc.edu/delivery>. Items relating to personal interests or for entertainment purposes should be requested through the Madison Public Library (LINKCat Catalog - Web version or Madison Public Library Interlibrary Loan Service) or UW System Borrowing service. Use Library Express to obtain books and articles not owned by UW-Madison libraries or to request campus document delivery service. Use the Electronic Journal List to access 8,000 + full-text electronic journals, magazines, newsletters, and newspapers. Use MadCat or MadCat's UW System Borrowing service to request books from UW Madison or the other UW campuses.

Publication Submissions

The best way to do is to use BuckySubmit for publications. <https://pas.wisc.edu/buckysubmit/> Contact Ryan Schryver ryan.schryver@wisc.edu to help with this process and recommend any tips. BuckySubmit is a one-stop service that submits researchers' papers to their funders' institutional repositories. It's a fast and easy way for federal and private foundation awardees to meet public access to publications compliance rules.

Transportation

You can find information on transportation throughout campus, including bus service, bicycle arrangements, and parking facilities, at <http://transportation.wisc.edu/>. Commuting by bike is a simple way to cut down on campus congestion and help preserve the environment. Thousands of students, staff, and faculty commute by bicycle to UW-Madison. Plenty of bicycle racks spaces are available near every campus building for parking and securing.

The Transportation Services Office, 124 WARF Office Building, 263-6666, sells visitor parking permits and bus passes. Parking and transportation **maps and bus schedules** also are available at satellite offices in the American Family Children's Hospital (608) 263-4007. Visitors have a better chance of obtaining space if parking is reserved in advance. All areas have a fee. See <http://transportation.wisc.edu/> for a complete list of available parking options.

Madison Metro

[Madison Metro bus service](#) is convenient and stops outside the Health Sciences Learning Center. The "Route 80" bus is free on campus. Madison Metro buses require the use of the bus

pass which is free of charge to students. In addition, many students and faculty use bicycles or walk to get to different campus locations.

Convenient bus service is provided throughout the UW campus and the city of Madison. Madison Metro provides daily bus service throughout the city and to some suburbs. About 90 percent of the citizens of Madison are within a quarter of a mile of a bus route. Student bus passes are funded through ASM via segregated student fees and distributed through ASM.

The free campus **'80' bus route** serves WIMR, the UW Hospitals, Eagle Heights, parking lot 60, and the Clinical Science Center on the west side of campus, the Medical Sciences building, the Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery/Morgridge Center, the Engineering campus and the Union South in the middle of campus, and Memorial Union and State Street on the east. The route runs from 6:16 a.m. – 1:55 a.m. weekdays, with a peak frequency of 7-8 minutes. On the weekends, the route begins at 7:55 a.m. and runs every 45 minutes. For more detailed bus route information check out the bus website (listed above).

Passengers may transfer from campus buses to Madison Metro buses along University, Johnson Street, and Park Street. Most buses stop in the campus area. For schedule and route information, call 608/266-4466 or visit the Madison Metro Transit System website at <http://www.cityofmadison.com/metro>.

University Health Services (UHS)

Clinical Services, at 333 East Campus Mall, 265-5600, provides outpatient primary medical care, nursing, and prevention services, including general medicine, women's clinic, sexually transmitted disease evaluation and treatment, allergy, and dermatology services.

Counseling and Consultation Services, at 333 East Campus Mall, 265-5600, helps students who are experiencing personal stress, career concerns, family or interpersonal conflict, general anxiety, depression, or other psychological concerns. The staff also provides an after-hours crisis response service at 265-6565. More information about UHS can be found at its website, <http://www.uhs.wisc.edu>.

Graduate School

The Graduate School website provides an overview of all programs at UW-Madison that offer graduate degrees, graduate minors, and certificates. It contains general rules and regulations for each program, including policies for admission, course work, and criteria governing satisfactory progress. The most current version of the catalog can be found on the web at <http://www.wisc.edu/grad/catalog>.

The *Graduate School Academic Guidelines* provides the “nuts and bolts,” in-depth information about all policies and procedures of the Graduate School. The online version on the Graduate School Web site is the official document of record. The Graduate School Office of Academic Services and Fellowship Administration developed this to help answer questions about Graduate School academic and administrative policies and procedures. The Graduate School also has information on “Completing Your Degree”.

Informational websites for admitted graduate students, current graduate students and for all graduate students can be found at: <https://grad.wisc.edu/> and <https://grad.wisc.edu/studentlife/>.

Campus Web Sites

Wisconsin Welcome Events: <http://www.newstudent.wisc.edu/>
<http://www.newstudent.wisc.edu/> <http://grad.wisc.edu/new-students/>

Helpful University Web Sites:

Graduate School Homepage: <http://grad.wisc.edu>
Division of Student Life: <https://students.wisc.edu>
Office of Student Financial Services: <http://finaid.wisc.edu>
Registrar's Office: <http://registrar.wisc.edu>
University of Wisconsin: <http://www.wisc.edu>
Campus Map: <http://www.map.wisc.edu>

Events Calendars:

Athletic Department: <http://www.uwbadgers.com>
Wisconsin Week: <http://today.wisc.edu>
Wisconsin Union: <https://union.wisc.edu/>

Museums and Galleries:

Chazen Museum of Art: <https://www.chazen.wisc.edu/>
Geology Museum: <http://geoscience.wisc.edu/museum/>
Department of Art: <https://art.wisc.edu>

7th floor, Humanities Building, 455 N. Park St.

Open during normal building hours. 608-262-1660

The Department of Art exhibits undergraduate and graduate student works in the gallery on the seventh floor of the Humanities Building.

Memorial Union Galleries:

800 Langdon St. Open normal building hours. 608-262-1660

The Memorial Union offers a number of different galleries featuring diverse exhibits throughout the year. Check the campus events calendar (<http://www.today.wisc.edu>) under Ongoing Exhibits for a listing of current shows.

Performing Arts:

Wisconsin Union Theater: <https://union.wisc.edu>
School of Music Concerts: <https://www.music.wisc.edu>

Athletic Events:

Athletic Ticket Office: <http://www.uwbadgers.com>
The Kohl Center: http://www.uwbadgers.com/facilities/kohl_center.html
The Kohl Center is the home of Badger basketball and hockey. The facility is also a venue for state tournaments, concerts, family shows and university events. The Kohl Center is located at 601 W. Dayton Street, and the phone number is 608/263-5645 (KOHL)

Campus Natural Areas:

Howard Temin Lakeshore Path: The Lakeshore Path runs for two miles along Lake Mendota on the northern edge of the campus. Beginning near the Memorial Union and ending at picnic point, the path is a popular destination for bicyclists, joggers and walkers.

UW Arboretum: <https://arboretum.wisc.edu/visit/>

A 1,240-acre outdoor ecological laboratory for research and instruction, provides examples of major plant communities in the Midwest.

Allen Centennial Gardens: <https://allencentennialgarden.org/>

At the corner of Observatory and Babcock Drives includes English, Victorian and New American Gardens.

About The City

Housing

The Campus and Visitor Relations website is very helpful. The CVR customer service desk is located at 329 Union South, 1308 W. Dayton Street. You can reach them by phone at 608/263-2400. The e-mail address is askbucky@uwmad.wisc.edu and the URL is <http://info.wisc.edu>.

On-Campus Housing: The UW-Madison Division of University Housing offers accommodations for the academic year for single graduate men and women in three locations: there are single and double rooms in the Davis House and Merit House, and one- and two-bedroom furnished apartments on Harvey Street. The University also maintains student family housing for the entire year at Eagle Heights (one-, two-, and three-bedroom unfurnished apartments) for students with a spouse, domestic partner, or child. Many of these accommodations (especially family housing) have long waiting lists or early application deadlines, so students must consider housing options well in advance of the time they will need them. Applications for graduate student residence halls are accepted as of October 1st for the following academic year. For students beginning their studies in the spring, applications are accepted as of June 1st.

Off-campus Housing: Many types of off-campus housing are available, including rooms, efficiencies, co-ops, apartments, and houses. The Campus Information, Assistance & Orientation office maintains a current list of vacancies. Other places to look include the city and campus newspapers and the bulletin boards in the lobbies of both student unions. Most property owners in the campus area require a one-year lease. Monthly rent prices in Madison vary widely depending on location, whether or not utilities are included, the size and amenities of the unit, and so on. Check with the following sources for more information:

Madison Community Co-ops
1202 Williamson Street, Suite C.
Madison, WI 53703
608/251-2667, <http://madisoncommunity.coop/>

Tenant Resource Center
1202 Williamson Street, Suite A
Madison, WI 53703
608/257-0006, <http://tenantresourcecenter.org>

There are also free publications available at news-stands, grocery stores, libraries, etc.:

Start Renting: <http://www.startrenting.com>
Apartments for Rent Magazine: <http://www.forrent.com>
Campus Area Housing: <http://campusareahousing.wisc.edu>
Madison Campus & Down Town Living: <http://www.CDLiving.com>

Other Sources of Information

The Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce, 615 E. Washington Avenue, phone 608/256-8348, <http://greatermadisonchamber.com/>, has information on recreation, shopping, restaurants, and hotels. City information and events of interest are listed in the free weekly newspaper, *Isthmus*, and the two daily newspapers, the *Wisconsin State Journal* and *The Capital Times*. Other useful sources of local information are Wisconsin Public Radio (WHA 99.7 AM or WERN 88.7 FM), operated on the UW campus, and community-sponsored “Back Porch Radio” (WORT 89.9 FM).

Local Web Sites

City of Madison: <http://www.cityofmadison.com>

Greater Madison Convention & Visitors Bureau: <http://www.visitmadison.com>

Weather: <http://www.channel3000.com/weather>

Madison Metro Transit System: <http://www.cityofmadison.com/metro>

Dane County: <http://www.countyofdane.com/>

State of Wisconsin: <http://www.wisconsin.gov/Pages/home.aspx>

Wisconsin State Journal newspaper: <http://host.madison.com>