

PHYSICS DEPARTMENTAL HONORS PROGRAM

The Physics Honors Program provides superior students with a program that offers greater creativity and intellectual challenge. The Department of Physics recognizes highly motivated students of superior academic achievement and will provide these gifted students with opportunities to develop their scholarly interests and professional skills through faculty mentorship, advanced study, and independent research. The student's scholarly achievements will contribute to an intellectually dynamic community.

Eligibility and Requirements for Admission

To gain admission into the Physics Honors Program, a student must have:

- a) A minimum overall (cumulative) 3.2 GPA and at least a 3.2 GPA in physics courses.
- b) Junior status in a physics program (i.e. 60 to 30 semester hours remaining for completion of the degree).

Application Process

Students should discuss the Honors Program with their Academic Advisor no later than their junior year. They should identify a Senior Project Advisor, complete and submit the application form. A student not meeting all of the above requirements may petition for special permission to enter the Honors Program.

The Honors Program

Each student in the Physics Honors Program must:

- a) Maintain the minimum GPA requirements (3.2 overall and 3.2 in physics courses).
- b) Complete two elective courses at the PHY 4000 or above level.
- c) Submit a written proposal (1-3 pages) detailing a Senior Project associated with PHY 4940 or an equivalent course. The proposal should provide details of the research project, the goals for the project, a timeline, and resources need to accomplish the research goals. The Undergraduate Studies Committee Chair and the Senior Project Advisor will review the proposal and provide feedback during the semester it is submitted. Both

the Undergraduate Studies Committee Chair and the Senior Project Advisor must then approve the final proposal, which must be completed no later than the last semester in which the student has junior standing.

- d) Complete at least six hours (in two or more semesters) of research (PHY 4940 or equivalent courses approved by the Undergraduate Studies Committee Chair) with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or better for these courses. The Department of Physics Undergraduate Studies Handbook will provide additional milestones for the senior project, such as proposal submission, proposal updates, research notebooks, progress reports, final written reports, and oral/poster presentations.
- e) As part of the PHY 4940 or equivalent course, students will submit a written report to the Senior Project Advisor and the Undergraduate Studies Committee Chair, present the research results as an oral presentation as part of the PHY 8000 seminar series (typically at the end of the spring semester), and create a poster for public presentation and/or display. Students are also encouraged to present research results at a local, national, or international conference, such as the regional American Physics Society meeting.

Evaluation

At the completion of the Senior Project (PHY 4940 or equivalent courses), a project grade will be given by the student's Senior Project Advisor and two other faculty members that will form a committee. The grade will be based on the quality of work and details of the master syllabus found in The Department of Physics Undergraduate Studies Handbook. The Senior Project Advisor will seek input from other faculty members or mentors who are familiar with the project. A grade lower than B means the student has failed to meet the departmental honors requirement.

Withdrawal

A student may withdraw from the Departmental Honors Program at any time and resume the normal program of study. Any credit hours earned as part of the honors studies may be counted towards graduation requirements.

NOTE: The Department of Physics Undergraduate Studies Handbook can be found on the

Departmental Website at <http://science-math.wright.edu/physics/advising>. A link to the current handbook is: http://science-math.wright.edu/sites/default/files/page/attachments/WSU-Physics-UndergradHandbook-2013-Final1.1_0.pdf

PHYSICS HONORS PROGRAM
APPLICATION FORM

Name: _____ UID: _____

Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Expected Graduation: _____ (semester/year)

Total Credits completed for all courses: _____

Cumulative grade point average for all courses: _____

Total Credits completed for physics courses: _____

Cumulative grade point average for physics courses: _____

Academic Advisor: _____

Honors Project Advisor: _____

Brief Description of Tentative Honors Project (if needed, submit additional documentation):

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

(not needed if emailed from WSU student account)

Submit applications to either the Physics Department Chair, the Assistant to the Chair, or the Undergraduate Studies Committee Chair.