Undergraduate Major Admissions

Admission into the Physics Major is capacity constrained. Completion of the minimum requirements described below does not guarantee admission. Each application is evaluated holistically by the Undergraduate Admissions Committee.

Application Prerequisites

- Completion (not in progress) of the following courses by the time of application.
  - Course equivalents for transfer, AP, IB, etc., must be indicated on the UW transcript. Typical applicants will have earned a 2.6 or above in the below courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Math</th>
<th>124 or 134</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>125 or 135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>126 ~</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phys</td>
<td>121 or above 3.5 in 114+117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phys</td>
<td>122 ~</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phys</td>
<td>123 ~</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Completion of a minimum of one physics lecture course (any course number, either at UW or elsewhere) within two quarters prior to application.
- Current enrollment in a minimum of one physics lecture course with course number higher than 220 at time of application.

Application Materials

(*Incomplete applications will not be reviewed*)

- Completion of online application form (includes contact information, information on first year math and physics, choice of degree option, links to upload next three items)
- Unofficial UW transcript (pdf)
- Graduation Plan (entered into MyPlan, then entire MyPlan submitted as a pdf)
- Personal Statement (**see below). Preapproval of the graduation plan is strongly recommended; admission may be provisional based on completion of Physics Student
Services approved Graduation Plan by end of first quarter. We understand that plans are not permanent and will change, but we want all applicants to be aware of academic planning. Some entries may be “Elective” or “VLPA,” but all required courses for the selected degree option should be present in an appropriate quarter. (Sample graduation plans can be found [here](#)).

Continuation Policy Addendum

All new majors who do not have a Physics Student Services approved graduation plan on file by the end of the quarter in which they are accepted will have a hold placed on their registration until their Graduation Plan is approved by Physics Student Services.

Admission Criteria

Admission is capacity constrained and based on a holistic review of application materials.

- **Academic Performance**
  This is measured by GPA, grades in courses required for admission, difficulty of other courses completed; frequency of incompletes, repeated courses, and withdrawals; relevant work and life experience.

- **Personal Statement** (max 3000 characters).
  The statement should discuss reasons for choosing a Physics major and strategies for success in the major, including a discussion of lessons learned from previous successes and difficulties (in or out of the classroom) and plans for accessing support. It should also address how the chosen degree option and submitted graduation plan are suited to life and career goals. If any admission materials or prerequisites are missing, students must address why their application should not be postponed.

How To Apply

**Standard Admission**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quarter of Enrollment</th>
<th>Application Opens</th>
<th>Application Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WINTER</td>
<td>SEPT 1</td>
<td>3rd Friday of Autumn Qtr, 5pm PDT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUMMER or AUTUMN</td>
<td>APRIL 1</td>
<td>3rd Friday of Spring Qtr, 5pm PST</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Transfer Admission**

Only for transfer students who started at UW previous Autumn.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quarter of Enrollment</th>
<th>Application Opens</th>
<th>Application Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPRING</td>
<td>JAN 1</td>
<td>3rd Friday of Winter Qtr, 5pm PST</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SUBMIT ADMISSIONS APPLICATIONS [HERE](#)** (Opens April 1st at 8:00 am)

To access the form, you will need to use the G-suite function of your UWNNetID. If you have not already activated UW G Suite, you may do so [HERE](#).

Send an email to Physics Student Services if you are having trouble accessing the application form.
If you would like to learn more about the major and application process, please plan to attend a Physics Major Information Session. Watch your email and posted signs for time and date.

Admission Decisions

Decisions are made within approximately one month of the application deadline, in time for registration the following quarter. Applicants are notified of the decision via UW email. If admitted, follow the directions in the email. If admitted and you do not accept the offer by the deadline stated in the email, you will not be admitted to the major and need to reapply.

Admitted applicants need to be registered and enrolled for the quarter immediately following the application decision. Students who are not enrolled for the quarter following admission will forfeit their admissions offer and will need to reapply in a future application cycle.

All applicants have the right to petition and appeal the department's admission decision. If you feel that important facts were overlooked by the committee, please submit a Physics Admission Decision Appeal request within two weeks of the date of the notification email to the Physics Student Services Office in PAB 139. Only relevant information that was not submitted with your original application will be considered in your appeal request. Students will be notified one week after the appeal deadline.

The University of Washington reaffirms its policy of equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, disability, or status as a protected veteran in accordance with University policy and applicable federal and state statutes and regulations. The University of Washington is committed to providing access and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education and employment for individuals with disabilities. To request disability accommodation in the application process contact the department at 206-543-6830 or the Disability Services Office at least ten days in advance at: 206.543.6450/V, 206.543.6452/TTY, 206.685.7264 (FAX), or e-mail at dso@u.washington.edu.

Department of Physics
University of Washington
Physics-Astronomy Building, Rm. C121
Box 351560
Seattle, WA 98195-1560

Phone: (206) 543-2770
Fax: (206) 685-0635
physrecp@uw.edu

Source URL: https://phys.washington.edu/undergraduate-major-admissions