Courses and Requirements (Q&A)

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Physics Graduate Option Representative

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http://www.pma.caltech.edu/content/physics-graduate-studies
Program Milestones

▶ Admission (congratulations!)
▶ Matriculation in September 2015
  ▶ orientation
  ▶ placement “exams” (these are just for you)
  ▶ register for at least 36 units
▶ Written candidacy exams
  ▶ Two exams: “Classical physics” and “Quantum physics”
  ▶ Must be attempted by end of first year
  ▶ Must be passed by end of second year
  ▶ Three attempts possible
▶ Oral candidacy exam
  ▶ In area of proposed thesis research
  ▶ Examines broad knowledge in field of specialization
  ▶ Must be passed by end of third year
▶ Ph.D. defense
  ▶ Thesis to committee
  ▶ Oral defense
  ▶ “Must” be passed by end of fifth year
▶ Congratulations, doctor!
Course Requirements

1. Two quarters of Ph 242, “Physics seminar” – Topics in physics emphasizing current research at Caltech
2. Breadth requirement of advanced coursework in at least six areas from:
   - Atomic/Molecular/Optical physics
   - Astrophysics
   - Condensed matter
   - Elementary particles
   - Gravitation
   - Interdisciplinary physics
   - Mathematical physics
   - Nuclear physics
3. Required for advancement to candidacy
4. Courses may be taken Pass/Fail