Master of Science in Physics
at Central Michigan University

Welcome
As a graduate student in Central Michigan University’s master’s program in Physics, you’ll have opportunities to apply your knowledge and skills to meaningful research projects, work in world-class facilities and closely interact with distinguished professors. Whether your goal is to advance your career or explore new opportunities and areas of expertise, CMU will help you get there.

Physics at CMU
The Department of Physics is housed in the Leon A. and Frances M. McDermott wing of the Dow Science Center at Central Michigan University. Department faculty are active in the following areas of research: astrophysics, atomic physics, computational physics, condensed-matter physics, nuclear physics, and observational astronomy.

Recent physics graduate students from CMU have found employment in industry, in four-year colleges, and in museums and public planetariums. Many also continued graduate studies in a variety of fields including optics, nuclear physics, materials science, medical physics and engineering.

Master’s Degree Program
Build your future with the academic experiences offered through the CMU Department of Physics graduate programs:
• Master of Science in Physics (M.S.)
• Ph.D. in the Science of Advanced Materials

The CMU Department of Physics will give you many opportunities to develop the mechanical, mathematical and problem-solving skills that will help you prepare for a physics-related career. You can also become engaged in active learning in multimedia classrooms, advanced laboratories and independent research projects.

The Master of Science in Physics degree is for students who are interested in careers in business, industry, and government as well as for those preparing to teach at the undergraduate level, or for those considering doctoral work in physics or a related area such as materials science or astronomy. Classes are small, and students have the opportunity for close supervision and individual attention.

Graduate research assistantships and industrial internships are available in several research areas, in addition to the unrestricted graduate teaching assistantships and fellowships.

Degree Requirements
Minimum Total for Graduation: 30 hours
The requirements for the M.S. in physics are based on a core of 12 semester hours in advanced mechanics, electricity and magnetism, and quantum mechanics. 3 hours of seminar are required, and 6 hours of credit are given for the thesis. In consultation with an advisor, you will select at least 9 additional hours in areas of specific value to you. The program is normally completed in 2 years. There is no qualifying examination, and no foreign language is required.
Admission

For admission to the physics graduate program, a bachelor’s degree in physics is required with a minimum GPA in physics of 2.6. An applicant with minor deficiencies may be admitted with the understanding that coursework in addition to the usual 30 hours may be required.

For admission to the physics graduate program, a bachelor’s degree in physics is required with a minimum grade point average in physics of 2.7. An applicant with minor deficiencies may be admitted with the understanding that coursework in addition to the usual 30 hours may be required.

Students from non-English speaking countries are required to demonstrate proficiency in speaking English via the TOEFL exam. Applicants for graduate assistantships are strongly urged to submit GRE General and Physics scores. A maximum of 24 credits earned during non-degree status may be applied toward a graduate degree in Physics.

Financial Assistance

As a graduate student, you’ll have opportunities to apply for financial assistance through graduate assistantships offered within the CMU Department of Physics as well as the College of Graduate Studies.

In addition to providing financial assistance to help you complete your degree, graduate assistantships offer opportunities to develop and enhance your career-related skills.

Graduate Assistantships (GAs) include Graduate Teaching Assistantships and Graduate Research Assistantships and are available on a competitive basis. Application forms may be obtained from the Department of Physics. The deadline for applications is February 1 for full consideration.

Graduate Teaching Assistantships (GTAs) are service-related appointments that require teaching. GTAs are involved in laboratory instruction for 6 to 8 contact hours per week.

Graduate Research Assistantships (GRAs) are expected to work approximately 20 hours per week on a faculty research project. Summer support is possible, but depends on the availability of funds.

Graduate Fellowships are administered by the College of Graduate Studies. Application materials must be submitted by the first Monday of February for the upcoming fall semester.

Fellowships are valid for one academic year and provide a tuition scholarship of up to 24 credit hours and a stipend. Fellowship applicants must submit an official copy of a current GRE score and three letters of reference.