



Department of Physics
2026/2027 Timeline for 1st-year students

Getting Started

- Research and Professional Development Workshop Every Friday at 1-2pm
This is in-class portion of PHY599. We meet weekly every Friday at 1-2pm in MSCN215 from August 28 till Oct 9.

Minsu Kim (Aug 28) General Orientation and How to best navigate our rotation system.
Graduate Faculty (Sep 4/11/18): Research Presentations by Faculty.
Connie Roth (Sep 25): PhD expectation
Sergei Urazhdin (Oct 2): How to do well in core courses.
Nic Vega (Oct 9): How to interact with your mentors
Daniel Sussman (Oct 16): Literature Toolkits.

Matching of Students for Rotation for Fall & Spring Semesters

- Students return the signature slip to Barbara – Sept. 25, 2026
- Students submit a ranked list of 5 professors to DGS – Sept. 25, 2026
- Students informed of their rotations – Friday, Oct. 9, 2026
- Rotation #1 (8 weeks), Monday, Oct 12, 2026 – Friday, December 11, 2026
Completion rotation report due: Friday, December 11, 2026. ***Please note: Extensions granted only by request, must be approved by Advisor before submission.***
- Rotation #2 (8 weeks), Monday, January 4, 2027 – Friday, Feb 26, 2027
Completion rotation report due: Friday, Feb 26, 2027. ***Please note: Extensions granted only by request, must be approved by Advisor before submission.***
- Rotation #3 (8 weeks), Monday, March 1, 2027 – Friday, April 23, 2027
Completion rotation report due: Friday, April 23, 2027. ***Please note: Extensions granted only by request, must be approved by Advisor before submission.***
- Students submit faculty preference – Friday, April 23, 2027
- Students informed of advisors – Friday, April 30, 2027
- Start of Summer Research – Monday, May 3, 2027

First Year Course Work

Fall 2026

Phys 501, Quantum Mechanics (3 credit hrs.)
Phys 502, Mathematical Methods I (3 credit hrs.)
0-1 elective:
536 Advanced computational physics
544 Advanced Lab (3 credit hrs.)
554 Molecule Biophysics (3 credit hrs.)
562 Introduction to Soft Matter (3 credit hrs.)
731: Special Topics In Theoretical Physics (3 credit hrs.)
599R Research (2 credit hrs.)
590A/B: Seminar Teaching College Physics (1 credit hr.)
ELSP on demand

Spring 2026

Phys 503, Classical Theory of Particles and Fields (3 credit hrs.)
Phys 504, Collective and Emergent Phenomena (3 credit hrs.)

0-1 elective:

564: Polymer Physics (3 credit hrs.)

525: Condensed Matter Physics (3 credit hrs.)

530: Introduction to Biophysics (3 credit hrs.)

544 Advanced Laboratory

751: Special Topics in Solid State Physics, Nanophotics(3 credit hrs.)

599R Research (2 credit hrs.)

590A/B: Seminar Teaching College Physics (1 credit hr.)

ELSP Courses on demand

Summer 2027

Phys 599R Research (9 credit hrs.) (S/U) with PhD Advisor