PHY Doctoral Student’s Timeline to Graduation

Note: This timeline may be adjusted, as needed, for MS students or students in the Planetary Sciences Track.

Admission to UCF Physics Graduate Program
Student is admitted to the PhD program in Physics
Student attends Orientation & completes all the necessary requirements before the 1st day of class

First Year
Complete 24 CHs (Core Courses – 18 Research – 6)
PHY 5606 – QMI (FA)
PHY 5346 – EDI (FA)
PHY 6246 – CM (FA)
PHY 6624 – QMI (SP)
PHY 6347 – EDII (SP)
PHY 7918 or IS 6908 (SU)

Second Year
Complete 24 CHs (Formal Electives 12, Remaining Electives/Research 12)
Complete CITI Training & RCR Workshops
Meet with Program Director
Meet a Research Advisor/Form Initial Committee

Third Year
Start Doctoral Dissertation Hours (minimum 15 CHs)
PHY 7980
Meet at least once per year with Advisor and the Doctoral Dissertation Committee
Meet at least once per year with Advisor and the Doctoral Dissertation Committee
Consider an Internship or other Summer research opportunity
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Fourth Year+
Complete minimum Doctoral Dissertation Hours
PHY 7980
Meet at least once per year with Advisor and the Doctoral Dissertation Committee
Meet at least once per year with Advisor and the Doctoral Dissertation Committee

Successfully Defend your Doctoral Dissertation
Job Search
Exit Interview

Graduate with a PhD in Physics
(Students have 7 years from the time of Admission to complete their degree)

Complete GTA training
Take the Physics Diagnostic Exam (if applicable)
Complete New Hire Paperwork (if applicable)
Register for classes

Complete an Initial Plan of Study by the end of the 1st year (Summer)
Take/Pass the Written Candidacy Exam after completing all core courses (Summer)
Take/Pass the Oral Candidacy Exam (Dissertation Proposal) within 1 year after passing the written candidacy exam
Obtain Candidacy Status

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Graduate Students must at minimum:
• Maintain a GPA of 3.0 or above
• Attend 1-2 conferences and/or present their research work
• 1-2 publications (or accepted publications) in peer-reviewed journal by graduation