

Checklist for Departmental Honors in physics

0) Obtain and read the key departmental honors in physics (aka Sr. Honors Thesis) documents available on the departmental Website (under Opportunities). This document contains all the pertinent info and it is the student's responsibility to make sure all requirements are adequately met.

An abbreviated (but not guaranteed complete-see item 0 above) set of requirements follows.

1) You must have a GPA of 3.5 or higher (overall and in physics), as well as positive recommendations from at least two faculty members who have taught you in a physics course at or above the level of Physics 220 and/or who have supervised you in a relevant research or independent study project.

2) Apply for provisional acceptance by the last day of classes of the spring semester of junior year. Application forms are available from the department chair or on the department website.

3) Upon provisional acceptance, select a supervising professor from the physics faculty under whose direction the research is to be completed. Decide on a specific research topic.

4) Choose a thesis advisory committee/ fill out a committee request form available from the department chair. Arrange regular meetings with thesis advisory committee.

5) Perform exploratory work to determine the feasibility of the proposed research project.

6) Before the end of the fourth week of classes in the fall of the senior year, prepare a detailed written research proposal for presentation to the thesis advisory committee.

7) Sign up for directed research (Independent Study 490 or Honors Thesis 499) for at least two semesters (normally 4-6 credits). During at least one semester, including the one in which you defend your thesis, you must be registered for Honors Thesis 499. Finish project.

8) Write the senior thesis.

9) Orally defend the senior thesis to the thesis advisory committee (deadline is typically mid-April).