

# North Carolina State University Physics Department

## Academic Degree Requirements\* Master of Science

### A. Graduate School requirements

#### 1. Minimum of thirty hours of graduate work.

This may include courses in the physics department at the 500-level or above and approved courses at the 400-level or above in other departments. These hours must include:

- a. no more than two hours of seminar (PY601);
  - b. no more than three hours of Master's supervised teaching (PY685);
  - c. no more than six hours of research credit (PY695) for thesis programs;
  - d. no more than six hours of independent study for non-thesis programs;
  - e. no more than ten hours of 400-level courses;
  - f. no hours of Thesis Preparation credit (PY699) for thesis programs; and
  - g. no hours of Master's examination credit (PY690) for non-thesis programs.
  - h. In addition, at least eighteen hours of the minimum thirty hours:
    1. must be graduate credits earned as a graduate student at NC State; and
    2. may not be graduate credits obtained while earning a master's degree in another program at NC State.
2. **A thesis and comprehensive oral examination**, option A (thesis Master's)
  3. **A comprehensive written examination** option B (*en route* Master's)

### B. Physics Department requirements

#### 1. Designation of a Research Director and an Advisory Committee (option A)

The committee must approve of the student's plan of graduate work, or POGW. If the student opts for a minor, one committee member must come from the department/s represented by the minor. The POGW must include either:

- a. a minor including fifteen hours in PY courses and nine hours in courses in the minor department/s, or
  - b. no minor and eighteen hours of PY courses; plus
  - c. two semesters of PY601; and
  - d. one semester of PHI816.
2. **A statement describing independent research** (option B)

This statement from the non-thesis Master's student must outline independent research the student has already done and the research he or she intends to continue in a doctoral program. The statement must be approved by the student's research sponsor and the Director of Graduate Programs. In addition *en route* MS students must file approved MS and Ph.D. POGWs.

\* *This document is meant as a simplified guide. Please refer to the NC State Graduate Administrative handbook for a complete description of degree requirements. 5/25/2005*