

Roadmap to Success

*These are guidelines for successful completion of a PhD degree
at the Department of Physics, University of South Florida.*

Year 1

- During their first year, the PhD student is expected to take and complete successfully all of the required core courses as described in the PhD curriculum - <http://physics.usf.edu/graduate/phd/>.
- The student is expected to seek, attend group specific group meetings, and seek trial memberships in particular labs. By the end of the first year, the student should join a specific lab.

Year 2

- By the end of the second year, the student should complete all course requirements and submit his/her GRE Physics Test scores.
- PhD students should apply for a Master's degree at that point.
- During this year, the student should assemble a PhD committee to supervise his/her progress towards successful completion of the graduate degree.
- The student is expected to successfully complete the *Credentials Certification* process (<http://physics.usf.edu/graduate/phd/>) and submit the Credentials Certification form.

Year 3

- The student should complete the Doctoral Examination by the end of the third year. This involves writing a *Dissertation Proposal* outlining the research the student intends to perform for completing of their PhD degree. The proposal must be defended successfully to the supervisory committee.

Year 4

- The student is expected to be actively involved in research geared towards completing the PhD degree.
- By the end of the fourth year, the PhD committee should examine the student's progress. The Major Advisor(s) can determine the related specifics – a meeting of the supervisory committee open for discussion or a presentation given by the PhD candidate may be requested.
- In consultation with the PhD Advisor(s), the student should actively seek a position for an Industrial Practicum.

Year 5

- By the end of this year, the student is expected to complete the *Industrial Practicum*. The student is expected to turn in a three-five page written report describing the experience. Alternatively, the student may choose to give a presentation about his/her experience and submit a copy of the presentation instead.
- By the end of this year, the student is expected to successfully defend their PhD Dissertation and graduate with a PhD degree in Applied Physics.

The USF Physics Department expects that each student considers carefully the type of research he/she intends to pursue during their graduate studies. Changing an initially chosen lab must be approved by the Graduate Director.

Documentation needed for Graduation (obtain from Physics Office)

- *Track Form* – the student must update the Track Form at the end of each semester. The updated form must be given to Ms. Daisy Matos at the end of each semester for review by the Graduate Director.
- *Credentials Certification Form* – the student must turn in this form as soon as he/she completes the qualifying procedure.
- *Industrial Practicum Application* – the student must complete and turn in this form to the Chair of the Physics Department for approval
- *Industrial Practicum Report* – the student must complete a three-five page written report describing their industrial experience.

General Guidelines for Candidacy Proposal

Purpose – In the Candidacy Proposal, the student is expected to outline a research project that will suffice for developing and writing a PhD dissertation successfully. The student must describe previous work relevant to the proposed research, specific problems that he/she will tackle, projected outcomes (such as results, publications, conference presentations, etc...), and time schedule to achieve his/her goals.

Written Format - All relevant information of the Candidacy Proposal must be organized in a document of 20 - 40 single sided, single spaced pages. References are not included.

Oral Presentation – The student must prepare a 25-30 min presentation to present his/her Candidacy Proposal to the PhD Committee for evaluation.