

DEPARTMENTAL PLAN FOR ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING
2004-2005 ACADEMIC YEAR

Department: Physics

Program: Master of Science

Mission Statement

The primary functions of the Physics Department are teaching, research and service. In accordance with the mission of the University, the department provides courses for physics majors and minors, and service courses to students in other programs in the College of Arts & Sciences and other units of the University.

Student Learning Goals

Student Learning Goal 1: Students will acquire competency in graduate level physics including mechanics, electromagnetism, quantum mechanics, and theoretical methods.

Student Learning Goal 2: Students will acquire in-depth exposure to research.

Student Learning Goal 3: Students will acquire skills in oral presentations and acquire experience in writing research papers

Student Learning Goal 4: Students will develop analytical skills needed as a professional physicist.

Student Learning Goals and Program Objectives	Educational Experiences	Assessment Methods	Timeline	Responsibility	Use of Results and Process of Documentation and Decision Making
1. Students will acquire competency in graduate level physics including mechanics, electromagnetism, quantum mechanics, and theoretical methods.	Physics graduate courses, 509, 510, 539, 540, 541, 542, 545.	Average examination scores, samples of student work, student interviews.	Test scores and samples each semester, interviews annually.	Instructors, Graduate Committee.	Make adjustments to the course content and instructional method.
2. Students will acquire in-depth exposure to research.	Physics course 590, 550	Review of research project and thesis	As directed	Thesis committee	Contributions to the field of physics.
3. Students will acquire skills in oral presentations and acquire experience in writing research papers.	Present papers to meetings and conferences Classroom presentations	Accepted papers Sample of oral presentations	As directed	Thesis Advisor	Provide opportunities for practice and provide feedback.
4. Students will develop analytical skills needed as a professional physicist.	All graduate classes	Examinations and homework.	Each semester	Faculty research advisors	Adjustments to level and type of examinations homework etc.