

Frequently Asked Questions

The Department of Physics is offering a Masters in Physics with concentrations in Applied Physics (AP), Medical Physics (MP) and Health Physics (HP). You need to apply for one concentration. We are also offering a PhD in Biomedical Physics.

How do I apply?

Go to the web site of the Graduate School (<http://www.ecu.edu/gradschool>) and read the application instructions and download the forms or apply online. There is a lot of information in the tab “prospective students”.

What do I need for the application?

You need to submit the application form, transcripts from all attended schools, GRE test scores, three letters of recommendation, and a personal statement. The personal statement should state why you want to apply to our programs. A resume or CV is appreciated but currently not required. All documents should be submitted (uploaded) to the Graduate School (via the online application system).

Do I need a BS in Physics?

Not necessarily. We accept students with other science background, especially in the interdisciplinary PhD program. However, since the American Association of Physicists in Medicine now requires at least 9 documented hours of junior/senior level Physics courses to be eligible for the board certification, a degree in Physics is preferred.

What program is CAMPEP accredited?

The Medical Physics concentration of our Master’s program is CAMPEP accredited. The PhD program in Biomedical Physics is not accredited. However, we do offer a concentration within the PhD program: “Integrated MS in Physics – Medical Physics concentration and PhD in Biomedical Physics” for highly qualified students. In this concentration, both degrees (the accredited MS and the PhD) will be awarded together when all requirements for both degrees are fulfilled.

What is my application status?

You can check on your application status at the website you submitted the application. The Graduate School will forward only “complete” applications to the Program Directors for consideration. Should your application be “incomplete” please contact the Graduate School directly.

When is the official application deadline?

The official application deadline is set for February 15 for the fall semester. We do not admit students in spring. Screening of applications will start soon after the official deadline.

Can I submit my application later?

Yes, you can. We continue to accept and screen applications until all of our slots are filled.

How many students are admitted?

The MS – Medical Physics concentration is limited to 6 - 8 students per year. We also try to recruit up to 8 students for the MS – Health Physics concentration, 2 – 5 students in the Applied Physics concentration and 4 - 5 students to the PhD program. In a typical year we receive around 30 – 50 applications for the Masters program, mainly for the Medical Physics concentration.

Detailed numbers on applications, acceptances and enrollments for the last years can be found at the Physics Department website <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-cas/physics/transferimages/Facts-and-Figures-Graduate-Program.cfm> .

Are there minimal grade requirements?

The Graduate School has the following minimum grade requirements: Master's programs: GPA > 2.7 (on a 4.0 scale); PhD programs: GPA > 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale). GRE: 30 percentile average in verbal and analytical, typically around 1000 on the old scale, or around 293 on the new scale.

Average numbers from students accepted (first numbers) and enrolled (second numbers) into our programs in the last years:

Year	Program	Accepted		Enrolled	
		GPA	GRE	GPA	GRE
2013	PhD	3.49	310	3.49	310
	MS-MP	3.39	311	3.45	310
2012	PhD	3.47	1253	3.45	1180
	MS-MP	3.49	1209	3.45	1273
2011	PhD	3.30	1183	3.30	1215
	MS-MP	3.52	1247	3.22	1220

Are you only looking at the grades?

No. We look at the whole application package. This includes, but is not limited to, overall scholarship (GRE and GPA), letters of recommendation, personal statement, preparation (e.g., physics courses taken and performance). For PhD students we are also looking for the potential for conducting independent research projects, and the research interests (do they fit the offered research areas?). We encourage especially in-state and minority applications.

What about financial aid?

All graduate applicants are encouraged to file the FASFA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) to be considered for all types of available aid and funding packages. For more information please see the Graduate School web site.

What about assistantships?

We do have a limited number of teaching assistantships (mainly introductory Physics laboratories; tutoring, etc.) available in the Department of Physics. Priority is given to the PhD program and the

Applied Physics concentration of the MS program. However, assistantships can be awarded to all qualified graduate students (GPA > 3.0; good academic standing) on a semester-to-semester basis.

What are Graduate Scholar Awards?

The university currently offers Graduate Scholar Awards as a recruiting incentive for prospective master's students. Students need to qualify for a full-time graduate assistantship plus have a minimum GPA of 3.3 and a minimum GRE verbal + quantitative of 1100 (old scores). The Graduate Scholar Award increases the department assistantship (currently \$11,000 per year) by \$4,000 per year for a maximum of two years. Application is done by the Program Director.

Are you accepting international students?

Yes we do. However, we have very limited possibilities in supporting international students in the Masters program, especially in the Medical Physics concentration. For more information, especially for other requirements like language proficiency and test scores, please refer to the Graduate School website.

The Graduate School Website states: (<http://www.ecu.edu/gradschool/international.cfm>)

English Proficiency: If English is not your native language and you have not completed at least one year of education (minimum of 18 credit hours) at a United States school, you are required to take a standardized English language exam or complete the ECU Language Academy (ECULA). The Graduate School accepts either the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), or Pearson Test of English (PTE) and scores must be forwarded to the Graduate School by the testing service. An iBT TOEFL score of 20 on each section for a total minimum score of 80, IELTS score of 6.5, or PTE score of 65 (with 60 on each section) is required to meet the language exam requirement. The paper- or computer-based TOEFL exam is accepted by request only. You may choose to attend the ECU Language Academy instead of taking the TOEFL, IELTS, or PTE. Also, if you do not obtain the required score on the TOEFL, IELTS, or PTE, at least one session of the ECU Language Academy may be required prior to the start of your program. Successful completion of level 5 of the ECU Language Academy is required for admission without TOEFL, IELTS, or PTE scores. More information on the ECU Language Academy, including the ECULA application, is available at <http://ecula.ecu.edu>. Individual programs may have higher minimum requirements.

You need more information or want to talk to us in person?

Please contact either the Graduate Program Assistant (Brandi Griffin griffinbr@ecu.edu; telephone: +1-252-328-6476), to physicsgrad@ecu.edu or Dr. Michael Dingfelder (Graduate Program Director; email dingfelderm@ecu.edu) with program related questions. If you have technical questions about the application process please contact the Graduate School (email: gradschool@ecu.edu; telephone: +1-252-328-6012).