

2015-2016 Admission Requirements

Master of Science in Physics; Doctor of Philosophy in Physics

Following are the simple steps to apply for graduate study in Physics and Astronomy at the University of Denver. If you have any questions about the process, please contact the [Office of Graduate Studies](#).

Apply Online / Application Deadlines

- Applications for graduate study at the University of Denver must be submitted online. [Apply online](#).
- All online materials must be received, and all supplemental materials including transcripts must be on file in the [Office of Graduate Studies](#), by the program's stated deadline: **February 1**, to receive full consideration for fall quarter admission. Applications completed after that date will be considered on a rolling bases. The program admits for the fall quarter only.
- A \$65 non-refundable application fee is required for an application to be processed. Application fee waivers are available for McNair Scholars.

Course and Degree Prerequisites and Requirements

- Applicants must earn and submit proof of earning the equivalent of a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution prior to beginning graduate coursework at DU.
- An undergraduate physics and mathematics background equivalent to a bachelor's degree in physics is required.

Transcripts

- Applicants are required to submit an official transcript from each post-secondary institution they have attended, or are presently attending, where two quarter hours (or one semester hour) or more were completed including study abroad and college coursework completed in high school.
- The applicant is responsible for obtaining all transcripts. Applicants who have earned a degree outside the U.S. must submit transcripts accompanied by certified English translations, if not normally issued in English. DU students and alumni do not need to provide DU transcripts.
- Official study abroad transcripts are required unless the course titles, grades and credit earned abroad appear on another transcript. Transcripts from outside of the U.S. are evaluated by the Office of International Student Admission. This process can take three to four weeks and must be complete by the program's stated deadline. Therefore, **applicants with a degree from outside of the U.S. are encouraged to apply early**. Applicants educated outside the U.S. are encouraged to contact the Office of Graduate Studies for assistance

regarding transcript-related materials.

- The University of Denver will consider electronic transcripts official from a domestic institution provided by the following approved agencies: Army/American Council on Education Registry Transcript System (AARTS); Docufide/Parchment; National Student Clearinghouse; Naviance; Royall and Company; and, Scrip-Safe.
- Electronic transcripts should be sent to gradinfo@du.edu.

Mail official transcripts to:

University of Denver
Office of Graduate Studies
Mary Reed Building, Room 5
2199 S. University Blvd.
Denver, CO 80208-4802

Language Proficiency

- Official scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) are required of all graduate applicants, regardless of citizenship status, whose native language is not English or who have been educated in countries where English is not the native language. Applications will not be processed until the required TOEFL or IELTS score is received. The TOEFL and IELTS scores are valid for two years from the test date. The minimum TOEFL score accepted by the University is 80 (iBT) or 550 (paper-based). The institution code for the University of Denver is 4842. The minimum IELTS score accepted by the University is 6.0. Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs) must demonstrate fluency in spoken English by scoring a 26 on the TOEFL speaking section or 8.0 on the IELTS speaking section. Please see the Graduate Policy Manual for complete English language proficiency requirements.
- Applicants may be exempted from English proficiency test requirements if by the time of matriculation they have earned a post-secondary degree from a formally-recognized/accredited university where the language of instruction and examination is English. Such applicants may be exempt from the TOEFL/IELTS requirement but not from other standardized graduate entrance examinations. There are no exemptions for graduate teaching assistants.
- Students whose native language is not English and who are required to submit **TOEFL/IELTS** scores will be assessed by the University of Denver English Language Center (ELC) prior to matriculation.

Test Scores

- The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) with a minimum of 146 on the quantitative

section is required. Admission preference will be given to those submitting strong advanced physics scores on the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) subject test. Scores must be received directly from the appropriate testing agency by the program's stated deadline. The institution code for the University of Denver is **4842**.

Personal Statement

- Your application should include a short statement in your own words, describing why you are interested in attending graduate school and why you chose our department. In your essay, specify your particular physics area of interest and discuss your future career plans.

Recommendation Letters

- **Three letters of recommendation are required.** Letters should be solicited and uploaded by recommenders through the online application system. Requests for letters should be sent to recommenders well in advance so the letters are on file by the application deadline.

Examinations

- Before registering, new graduate students must take a diagnostic examination covering undergraduate physics. This examination serves to identify undergraduate deficiencies and helps to determine the student's initial program.
- A comprehensive examination is given to assess whether students have attained the standards set by the department to continue their pursuit of the degrees sought. All students are required to pass the comprehensive examination at an appropriate level (MS or PhD), in order to advance their candidacy status. All students pursuing a PhD are required to pass an oral dissertation research proposal in order to be promoted to PhD candidacy.

Financial Support

- To be considered for financial support, domestic applicants should apply early and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by the priority deadline; February 15. Information about financial aid can be found on the [Office of Financial Aid](#) website. International students are not eligible for federal financial aid.
- The Department of Physics and Astronomy offers graduate teaching assistantships, graduate research assistantships, and graduate studies doctoral fellowships, none of which requires the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Application Status

- We encourage you to be actively engaged in the admission process. You can check your application status online at [PioneerWeb](#). Applicants will receive login information post application submission.

Contact Information

Mail official transcripts and any supplemental admission materials not submitted with the online application to:

University of Denver
Office of Graduate Studies
Mary Reed Building, Room 5
2199 S. University Blvd.
Denver, CO 80208-4802

Electronic transcripts should be sent to gradinfo@du.edu.

For more information call (303) 871-2706 or chat with us via [Live Counselor](#).

International Applicants

- For complete international applicant information, please visit the [Office of Graduate Studies International Student Application Information](#). International applicants are strongly encouraged to have their applications complete, with all materials on file in the admission office, at least eight weeks prior to the program's application deadline.

The [Graduate Policies and Procedures](#) provides complete details regarding admission requirements.