

PHYSICS HONORS PROGRAM

The department has special opportunities for good students at both the lower-division and upper-division levels. Special honors laboratory courses (Physics 13AH, 13BH and 13CH) require unusual creativity and are available to a few students each year. Physics 142L, 143L, 144L and 145L are available to qualified seniors. All of the honors courses require the consent of the instructor and qualify for the College of Letters and Sciences Honors Program.

BACHELOR'S HONORS THESIS

The opportunity to pursue a Bachelor's Honors Thesis is available for students who maintain a grade point average in Physics of 3.5 or better. Students must submit a signed Honors Thesis proposal form to the undergraduate faculty advisor for approval three quarters before the Thesis is submitted. It is recommended that students discuss plans to pursue an Honors Thesis with their faculty advisor even earlier (e.g. before the beginning of their junior year). Completion of an Honors Thesis involves developing a research project under the supervision of a faculty member, presenting a public seminar describing the work, and submitting a formal written report to the faculty member and the undergraduate advisory committee for grading and approval. Honors Thesis work is credited via one of the following courses: Physics 142L, 143L, 144L, 145L, 198, and 199.

It is also recommended that Physics 127AL and Physics 128AL be taken in the JUNIOR year so that thesis candidates can concentrate on thesis research in the senior year. While we will substitute the Physics 128AL requirements for thesis work based on experimental research, that does not apply for those who are conducting theoretical research. They are encouraged to complete Physics 128AL.

Formatting

For dissertation formatting, please go to www.graddiv.ucsb.edu/pubs/filing_guide/docs/UCSB_thesis.doc

BACHELOR'S HONORS THESIS POLICY

Honors students should pursue a senior thesis. This involves the presentation of a seminar and the writing of a document, both of which describe their research. There are specific guidelines that a student pursuing the Honors Thesis should follow, those of which are outlined below.

Theses must state the problem to be studied, summarize previous knowledge, make some advance, and indicate its significance.

- 1. A thesis proposal, signed by the proposed thesis advisor, should be submitted to the Physics Undergraduate Advisor in Broida 3019 at least three quarters before the quarter in which the thesis will be finished, even if the student is not registered for that quarter.*
- 2. Any Physics Department ladder faculty member or permanent research staff member is an acceptable thesis advisor.*
- 3. If you want to do a thesis under the supervision of a faculty member outside the Physics Department, fill out the thesis proposal and submit it as above. You will be notified if a departmental co-supervisor is required.*
- 4. The total amount of academic credit that can be earned for a thesis may not exceed 10 units. Note that one unit corresponds to 3 hours of work per week in a 10 week quarter.*
- 5. You must submit one copy of your final thesis to the Physics Department, via your undergraduate faculty advisor. It should be printed double-spaced and single-sided on archival bond paper with original signatures, formatted as described for graduate student theses (see formats described in links on <http://www.graddiv.ucsb.edu/academic/thesis/>).*
- 6. Your thesis must be signed by your thesis advisor and must be presented and submitted to the Undergraduate Faculty Advisors Committee (through your undergraduate faculty advisor) for their approval. The presentation/defense must be done before the last day of classes in the quarter you intend to graduate.*
- 7. To complete your Honors Thesis, you must also make arrangements to give a seminar about your thesis work before the last day of classes in the quarter you intend to graduate. The seminar must be open to the public and advertised within the Physics Department.*
- 8. Ask the Undergraduate Staff Advisor to book a Broida room for the presentation/defense and another room for the seminar.*