Masters of Science in Health Physics Program Handbook

Welcome
The Health Physics & Diagnostic Sciences Department at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) welcomes you to our graduate program. This handbook is intended to provide helpful information as you pursue your M.S. degree in Environmental Health Physics (EHP) or Medical Physics (MP). The Environmental Health Physics sub-plan is accredited by the Applied Science Accreditation Commission of ABET (http://abet.org). The Medical Physics sub-plan is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Physics Educational Programs (CAMPEP).

Mission Statement(s)
The mission of the Master of Science in Health Physics Program is to provide a high-quality graduate education experience for students in the areas of environmental health physics and medical physics. The educational experience is accomplished through rigorous classroom instruction aided by computer and multi-media instruction, practical laboratory experiences, student research, and mentoring. The products of this experience are professionals capable of critical thinking and problem solving, devoted to a lifetime of learning, committed to the ethical standards of their profession, and highly sought after by employers.

Learning Outcomes
www.unlv.edu/degree/ms-health-physics

Purpose
The purpose of this handbook is to provide program specific information that is not found in the UNLV Graduate Catalog. Students are responsible for understanding and following the policies and procedures delineated in this document and the UNLV Graduate Catalog, as well as the NSHE Code, UNLV Bylaws, and the UNLV Student Conduct Code. Questions about policies should be directed to the Graduate College: valarie.burke@unlv.edu or kendall.hartley@unlv.edu.

Department Graduate Faculty
A current listing of the graduate faculty can be found in the UNLV Graduate Catalog. Faculty must hold either associate or full graduate faculty status to be involved in graduate education at UNLV. For up to date information regarding graduate faculty status in your department, visit the Graduate Faculty status web page.

Program Information
Masters of Science (M.S.) – Health Physics
   Environmental Health Physics Sub-Plan
   Medical Physics Sub-Plan

For more information on the program, please see the Graduate Catalog.

Contact Information
Health Physics & Diagnostic Sciences Department website.

Department Chair
Program Requirements

Program requirements regarding admission, coursework and culminating experience are found in the graduate catalog.

Advisory Committee Guidelines

Formation of the thesis advisory committee begins with the selection of a faculty member to serve as the student’s advisor and the chair of the student’s thesis advisory committee. This faculty member must have full graduate faculty status in the program to serve as chair. In consultation with his/her advisor, a student will organize an advisory committee of at least two additional department faculty members with full graduate faculty status in the program. In addition, a fourth member from outside the department, known as the Graduate College Representative, must be appointed. Additional committee member may be added at the student and department’s discretion. These additional members do not need to have graduate faculty status in the program.

Degree Program Benchmarks

Comprehensive Exam

A comprehensive oral exam will be taken by all students after completion of the second semester of enrollment in the program, covering the core coursework in the program (radiation physics, radiation transport, radiation detection, and radiation biology). The exam will be administered by the graduate faculty from Health Physics. The exam will be pass/fail. Students who fail the exam may re-take the exam at the end of their third semester of enrollment. Students who fail their second attempt will be separated from the program. Students may not defend their thesis prospectus or proceed with their professional paper until successful completion of the oral exam.

Thesis

Students are required to complete a research project developed in collaboration with their advisor/committee chair. To begin the thesis project, students will prepare a prospectus for the proposed project, which will be defended in front of the thesis committee prior to submitting the Prospectus Approval Form to the Graduate College. Students must complete the research that is described in the written statement submitted to the Graduate College. If the nature of the research deviates from the written description submitted to the Graduate College then a new prospectus defense must be held and a new prospectus approval form must be submitted along with a brief written statement describing the new research. A final oral examination (defense) will be held following completion of the thesis or professional paper resulting from a research project. The final examination must be held by the Graduate College deadline in the term in which the student plans to complete the degree requirements.

Program Timeline

The following timeline indicates key milestones in a student’s progress towards their degree. Milestones with fixed time requirements are indicated in bold, assuming a Fall term start. The recommended milestones must be completed in order, but may be completed earlier or later than recommended (delaying completion of these milestones will likely delay completion of the degree program however).

Identification of thesis committee chair / advisor and selection of thesis committee (1st Spring Term)
Pass Comprehensive Exam (1st Spring Term)
Prospectus Defense (2nd Fall Term)
Thesis Defense (2nd Spring Term)
Professional Code of Ethics/Discipline Guidelines
UNLV Graduate College policy regarding academic integrity can be found in the graduate catalog. Classes and research conducted in the program involves the use of radioactive materials and may include laboratory work. Students are required to follow all safety regulations and participate in additional safety training as required for their coursework or research activities. Continuous or willful neglect and/or intentional or continuous disregard for laboratory safety procedures may result in immediate dismissal from the program.

Annual Review Procedures
Each spring term, graduate students are required to complete the Graduate Student Annual Review survey. This survey will be sent by the Graduate College to the student’s Rebelmail account. The review covers the prior calendar year and assesses student progress while setting goals for the year ahead.

Students will receive feedback on their performance at the end of each semester from the program examining their progress and identifying any concerns. Students are also recommended to contact their advisors, the program coordinator, or the department chair with any questions or concerns regarding their progress at any time.

Discipline Resources
For thesis preparation, please use the style requirements for the Health Physics Journal. For professional papers, the paper should be prepared according to the style requirements of the target journal. If no target journal has been identified at the time of the defense, prepare the paper in accordance to the Health Physics Journal style requirements.

Professional Organizations
Health Physics Society (HPS)
American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM)
American Nuclear Society (ANS)

University Resources
Academic Success Center
The goal of the Academic Success Center is to help students do well academically and complete their studies on time. They offer or will refer you to such programs and resources as tutoring, advising, skills testing, career exploration and more. They guide students every step of the way to the many established resources created to ensure they complete their educational goals. Learn more about the programs and services the center currently offers.

Alumni Association
With an alumni base 90,000 strong, the UNLV Alumni Association offers a variety of services and opportunities in support of alumni and their families. UNLV alumni are encouraged to support the values of higher learning through advocacy, involvement, and giving.

Commencement Office
Located in the UNLV Registrar’s Office, the commencement office is the last step in the graduation process. Please check with the commencement office for information on the commencement ceremony and your diploma; for all other information about graduate student degree completion and graduation, including thesis/dissertation requirements and doctoral hooding, please contact the Graduate College.

Office of Diversity Initiatives
The vision of the Office of Diversity Initiatives is to advocate, promote, and support the advancement of equity, inclusiveness, and empowerment of a continuously changing collegiate and global community. The mission of the Office of Diversity Initiatives is to provide leadership and support for UNLV’s diversity mission: to nurture equity, diversity, and inclusiveness that promotes respect, support, and empowerment. This Office also handles UNLV Title IX questions, inquiries, and reporting.
Disability Resource Center (DRC)
The DRC is committed to supporting students with disabilities at UNLV through the appropriate use of advocacy, accommodations, and supportive services to ensure access to campus courses, services, and activities. The DRC is the university-designated office that determines and facilitates reasonable accommodations in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Graduate students with disabilities must disclose to the DRC in order to receive appropriate accommodations.

Office of International Student and Scholars
International Students and Scholars (ISS) ensures compliance with both SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) and federal law, so that the university can continue to be authorized by the U.S. federal government to enroll international students; host and hire international scholars; assist and advise employment eligibility and authorization relating to international students and scholars, and visa, travel, and immigration issues; provide critical and specialized services to the international students and scholars of the UNLV community; and facilitate their transition to the campus and the U.S.

Jean Nidetch Women’s Center
The Jean Nidetch Women’s Center is committed to creating a supportive and inclusive environment for all genders through programming, services, and advocacy for the UNLV community. The Women’s Center has informational resources, brochures, and flyers for a variety of on and off campus organizations to help empower and protect yourself, and learn about your options. They also provide free tampons, pads, and condoms.

UNLV Libraries
UNLV Libraries has always been more than books; they are about encouraging students and creating quality programs that elevate growth and learning. Please visit their website for important information about the services they offer to graduate students.

Graduate & Professional Student Association (GPSA)
The Graduate & Professional Student Association serves all currently enrolled University of Nevada, Las Vegas graduate and professional students. The GPSA maintains the Graduate Student Commons located in the Lied Library room 2141. The facility a working office equipped with a copier, fax, flatbed scanners, color laser printer, office supplies, and computers with printers and a small kitchen area. The GPSA is the graduate student governance body at UNLV; the GPSA Council consists of one graduate student representative from each graduate department, and they meet monthly. The GPSA also provides volunteer opportunities, sponsors social events, and supports graduate student research through the graduate research and travel grants program.

Office of Student Conduct
The Office of Student Conduct is a student-centered, service-oriented office located within the Division of Student Affairs. The Office of Student Conduct collaborates with the UNLV community to provide an inclusive system through enforcement of the UNLV Student Code of Conduct by:

- Promoting awareness of student rights and responsibilities;
- Establishing accountability for student choices;
- Creating opportunities for involvement in the process; and
- Striving to uphold the values and ethics that advance the common good.

Office of Veteran Services
The UNLV Office of Veteran Services is staffed with veterans and GI Bill-experienced staff to assist more than 1,000 veterans, dependents, active duty service members, National Guard members, and reservists. Their mission is to develop a welcoming, veteran-friendly campus environment that fosters academic and personal success.

The Financial Aid & Scholarships Office
The Financial Aid & Scholarships Office supports higher-education access and persistence by
providing financial aid to eligible students. The office partners with student organizations, the UNLV Foundation, the Graduate College, and other external constituents to provide financial aid learning opportunities and scholarship support for graduate students.

Writing Center
This is a free service to UNLV students to help you with any writing project, from papers to creative writing, to resumes, and we can work with you at any stage of the writing process. The center can help you brainstorm, make an outline, work on your drafts, or just be a soundboard for your ideas. The center staff can assist you in person, or via the Online Writing Lab (OWL) page.

University Policies and Procedures
Graduate students are responsible for knowing and acting in accordance with UNLV Policies and Procedures. To view the most commonly referenced campus policies and procedures, you can refer to the following websites:

- Academic Integrity
- Activation for Military Service
- Change of Address
- FERPA/Privacy Rights
- Health Insurance - Mandatory
- Jeanne Clery Campus Safety and Security Report
- Proof of Immunization
- Policies and Procedures on the Protection of Research Subjects
- Rebelmail Policy
- Student Conduct Code
- Student Computer Use Policy
- Title IX

To ensure compliance with Graduate College policies and procedures, please review the relevant sections of the Graduate Catalog:

- Academic Calendar
- Academic Policies
- Admission and Registration Information
- Degree Progression Policies & Procedures

In addition, the Graduate College website contains additional information regarding policies and procedures.

Nothing in this handbook supersedes any NSHE, UNLV, or Graduate College policy.

Handbook Information

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