

Summary of Physics Graduate program MS Assessment report, Oct. 2015

Our students do well at making progress on an original research project and disseminating this work. Evidence for this are the papers published in refereed journals whose first author is the M.S. student.

To broaden our MS students' physics experience, several new optional courses were introduced during the last eight years. A class on biophysics was developed as a special topics course to improve student learning at the boundary of physics and biology (Phys775). A class on Optics was developed as a special topics course to improve student learning in optics and established permanently as Phys652. M.S. students will often take the Phys651, Phys652 optics sequence.

We look for trends that indicate a class average GPA is dropping below 3.0 systematically for a particular graduate class. None are seen so far. Faculty are looking at developing an instrument for each of our two most important 600 level courses (Phys 662 – Introduction to Quantum Mechanics and Phys 633- Electromagnetic Fields 2) to evaluate student learning in a more systematic way for the material of quantum mechanics and electromagnetic fields.