Western Michigan University’s Physics (M.A., Ph.D.) programs prepare researchers for careers in industry, academia, and national laboratories.

Concentrations are available in:
- Atomic and nuclear physics, with potential applications in astrophysics
- Condensed matter physics and material physics
- Physics education (M.A. level only)

Applied physics work can be done in conjunction with the College of Engineering.

A Tandem Van de Graaff accelerator is on site (applications in atomic, nuclear, and materials physics).

Focused graduate programs offer a small student to faculty ratio.
Physics (M.A., Ph.D.)

Teaching, Research, and Program Focus Areas
The department’s diverse research program complements its commitment to excellence in teaching. Our faculty is involved in cutting-edge research at leading national and international laboratories. Our expertise includes high intensity photon beams, advanced materials analysis, and experimental nuclear physics with applications in astrophysics. Our theorists work on strongly correlated quantum systems, atomic structure and spectroscopy with applications in astrophysics, photonic crystals, and nuclear structure and reactions. We also have a group of faculty dedicated to research and improvement of physics teaching and learning at the college and secondary levels.

Admissions
Applications are accepted for the fall semester only. For full consideration, a completed application file is needed by February 15 of each year for admission to the entering fall class.

For both Ph.D. and M.A. programs, the general GRE is required and first preference is given to students who score well on the subject (physics) GRE. Other application information is available on the department website: tesla.physics.wmich.edu/Degree_Programs/Graduate/

Graduate Assistantships/Associateships
Assistantships are generally given only to students in the Ph.D. program. We typically offer 3 - 5 graduate assistantships in each year’s entering class. Assistantships are for one year only, but are generally continued for students in good academic standing. Students with an assistantship usually offer instruction to undergraduate laboratory classes and are expected to devote 20 hours each week to teaching, grading, and office hours. There are often graduate assistantships available for one of two summer sessions.

Contacts
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Western Michigan University
One of the top-100 public universities in the United States, Western Michigan University offers many nationally known graduate programs, including 29 doctoral and 64 masters degrees. More than 20 percent of its 25,000 students are enrolled in graduate course work.

Kalamazoo
With a population of more than 325,000, Kalamazoo is the sixth largest metropolitan area in Michigan and among the 150 largest in the country. Kalamazoo is rated one of the 25 best cities in the country for young college graduates, and is located midway between Chicago and Detroit.