

Department of Physics
University of Chicago
Physics 334, 335: Experimental Requirement Policy

1. According to the new policy on the graduate experimental requirement, adopted by the Physics Department on May 3, 2002, all graduate students are expected to complete either Physics 334 or Physics 335 within their first year of study. This means that individual students must make a decision as to which path they will choose very early in the academic year. In particular, those students who are even considering the research project path (Physics 335) should register for Physics 335 at the time of their initial autumn quarter registration. After making an informed decision, they can confirm this by signing-up with the designated instructor for Physics 335 according to procedures outlined on the course website http://hep.uchicago.edu/~oreglia/P335/physics_335.htm by the end of the second week of the quarter. Alternatively they can cancel their Phys 335 registration (before the end of the third week of the quarter) and simply register for Physic 334 in Winter Quarter.
2. Requirements for Physics 334:
 - a. Graduate students taking Physics 334 are required to take Physics 334 in the winter quarter of their first year.
 - b. Students taking Physics 334 will perform two experiments.
 - c. Students will produce independently written, formal reports for each experiment.
 - d. Students will give an oral presentation for one experiment.
 - e. The students will attend the oral presentations of their colleagues in the course.
3. Students who feel that they have done work in an instructional laboratory elsewhere at the level of Physics 334, may appeal to the Experimental Requirement Committee to be excused from a portion of Physics 334. To be excused, a student must show documentary evidence (e.g., lab reports) of very good quality work done at the graduate level. Traditionally, successful appeals have been very rare.
4. Requirements for Physics 335:
 - a. Students must take Physics 335 in their first year.
 - b. Students are to work with an established research group at the U of C.
 - c. Students are to work on a special project, distinct from any ongoing research in the group.
 - d. Progress of the student is to be monitored and evaluated by a faculty member outside the research group, assigned to the oversight of Physics 335.
 - e. The student will submit a final written report to the Physics 335 faculty supervisor.
 - f. All Physics 335 students will present their work at an end-of-year poster session.
5. The Experimental Requirements Committee shall be constituted of the Department Chair, the Departmental Executive Officer, the Physics 334 faculty teaching in the winter of the students' first year, and the faculty assigned to the oversight of Physics 335.