



Program Approval Form

For approval of new programs and deletions or modifications to an existing program.

Action Requested:

☐ Create New (SCHEV approval required except for minors)

☐ Inactivate Existing

☒ Modify Existing (check **ALL** that apply)

☐ Title (SCHEV approval required except for minors)

☐ **Concentration** (Choose one): ☐ Add ☐ Delete ☐ Modify

☒ Degree Requirements

☐ Admission Standards/ Application Requirements

☐ Other Changes: _____

Type (Check one):

☐ B.A. ☐ B.S. ☐ Minor

☐ Master's

☒ Ph.D.

☐ Undergraduate Certificate*

☐ Graduate Certificate*

☐ Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's ☐ Other:

College/School:

College of Science

Department:

Physics and Astronomy

Submitted by:

Yuri Mishin

Ext:

3-3984

Email:

ymishin@gmu.edu

Effective Term:

Fall

2017

Please note: For students to be admitted to a new degree, minor, certificate or concentration, the program must be fully approved, entered into Banner, and published in the University Catalog.

Justification: (attach separate document if necessary)

See attached.

Program Title: (Required)

Title must identify subject matter. Do not include name of college/school/dept.

Concentration(s):

Admissions Standards / Application

Requirements: (Required only if different from those listed in the University Catalog)

Degree Requirements:

Consult University Catalog for models, attach separate document if necessary using track changes for modifications

Courses offered via distance:

(if applicable)

TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED:

Existing	New/Modified
	No change
	No change
See attached	See attached
	No change
	No change

*For Certificates Only: Indicate whether students are able to pursue on a

☐ Full-time basis

☐ Part-time basis

Approval Signatures

Department

Date

College/School

Date

Provost's Office

Date

Required for Minors and Interdisciplinary Programs

If this program may impact another unit or is in collaboration with another unit at Mason, the originating department must circulate this proposal for review by those units and obtain the necessary signatures prior to submission. Failure to do so will delay action on this proposal.

Unit Name	Unit Approval Name	Unit Approver's Signature	Date

For Undergraduate Programs only

Undergraduate Council Member

Provost Office

Undergraduate Council Approval Date

For Graduate Programs Only

Graduate Council Member

Provost Office

Graduate Council Approval Date

For Registrar Office's Use Only: Received _____ Banner _____ Catalog _____

revised 9/2/2016

Program Proposal Submitted to the College of Science Curriculum Committee (COSCC)

The form above is processed by the Office of the University Registrar. This second page is for the COSCC's reference.
Please complete the applicable portions of this page to clearly communicate what the form above is requesting.

FOR ALL PROGRAMS (required)

Program Title: [Physics PhD](#)

Date of Departmental Approval: [02/23/2017](#)

FOR MODIFIED PROGRAMS (required if modifying a program)

- Summary of the Modification: [Change requirements on PHYS 998 and PHYS 999 credits.](#)
- Text before Modification (title, degree requirements, etc.):

Dissertation Research (24 credits)

Note: No more than 24 combined credits from [PHYS 998/ASTR 998](#) and [PHYS 999/ASTR 999](#) may be applied toward satisfying the doctoral degree requirements, with no more than 12 credits of [PHYS 998/ASTR 998](#).

- [ASTR 998 - Doctoral Dissertation Proposal](#) Credits: 1-12
 - [ASTR 999 - Doctoral Dissertation](#) Credits: 1-12
 - [PHYS 998 - Doctoral Dissertation Proposal](#) Credits: 1-12
 - [PHYS 999 - Doctoral Dissertation](#) Credits: 1-12
- Text after Modification (title, degree requirements, etc.):

Dissertation Research (24 credits)

Note: No more than 24 combined credits from [PHYS 998/ASTR 998](#) and [PHYS 999/ASTR 999](#) may be applied toward satisfying the doctoral degree requirements, with no more than **21** credits of [PHYS 998/ASTR 998](#).

- [ASTR 998 - Doctoral Dissertation Proposal](#) Credits: 1-**21**
 - [ASTR 999 - Doctoral Dissertation](#) Credits: 1-**24**
 - [PHYS 998 - Doctoral Dissertation Proposal](#) Credits: 1-**21**
 - [PHYS 999 - Doctoral Dissertation](#) Credits: 1-**24**
- Reason for the Modification:

The first reason for these changes is that often students take more than 12 credits of 998 before they advance to candidacy. This then requires us to submit paperwork to allow the exception. We always allow the exception. The second reason for this change is that it will allow a student to take 0 credits of PHYS 998. We want to allow this because some students in our PhD program take several semesters of PHYS 796 and have already developed a thesis proposal by the time they have completed the required coursework; in this case they may not need to take PHYS 998 credits before they are ready to advance to candidacy and take PHYS 999.

With these changes, we are consistent with the minimum requirements specified by the university, which is a total of 12 credits of 998+999 with a minimum of 3 credits of 999.