

Frequently Asked Questions about the 2020 Changes to the Physics Graduate Program

1. Can I stay with the old plan?

Yes! However, if you switch to the new plan, you can't go back to the old one.

For more details about equivalencies between the two plans see:

https://physics.oregonstate.edu/sites/physics.oregonstate.edu/files/Grad_program/PhDPogramChanges2020.pdf

2. Should I switch to the new plan?

If you're not sure whether you should switch to the new plan, talk to your research advisor or the graduate advisor.

3. How do I switch to the new plan?

Fill out the Declaration of Change of Doctoral Program form and send it to the physics graduate advisor.

4. If I switch to the new plan, do I need to meet with the Core Advising Committee?

No, it is not required. However, if you have questions about your path to graduation, make an appointment with either your thesis committee (if you've formed one) or the Core Advising Committee (if you haven't formed a thesis committee yet).

5. If I switch to the new plan, do I need to revise my program of study?

Switching from the old to the new program does not require a change in the program of study. However, the courses taken to satisfy the pedagogical and inclusion training requirement may be made part of a student's program of study.

6. Can I still take the comprehensive exam?

Yes. The comprehensive exam will be offered to all current students who follow the old plan.

7. **If I switch to the new plan, but I passed the comprehensive exam, do I still need to meet the Core GPA requirement?**

No. Passing the comp takes the place of the core GPA requirement.

8. **Do I have to take the oral exam in the new format?**

If you're on the old plan, you can take the oral exam in the old format.

If you're on the new plan, you must take the oral exam in the new format.

9. **If I switch to the new plan before taking my oral exam, do I need to submit a writing project?**

Yes. Details about the writing project can be found [here](#).

10. **Do I have to wait for approval of my writing project before I schedule my oral exam?**

Yes. Revisions to the writing project must be approved before the oral preliminary exam can be scheduled.

11. **Do I have to do the annual reflection letter if I stay with the old plan?**

No, unless your advisor requires you to do so. Your advisor may require you to do the annual reflection letter even if you are on the old plan.

12. **What are some ways I can satisfy the pedagogical training requirement?**

The pedagogical training requirement may be satisfied in a number of ways: TA training seminar, teaching seminar, a GCUT (Graduate Certificate in College and University Teaching) course, a teaching practicum/apprenticeship (through Ph505/605) with a physics faculty member, and other courses or professional development workshops with the approval of the Core Advising Committee. The faculty is still considering other options, additional ways to satisfy the requirement may become available.

13. [What are some ways I can satisfy the Inclusion & Diversity requirement?](#)

The Inclusion & Diversity training requirement may be satisfied in a number of ways: Difference, Power, & Discrimination courses or trainings, Social Justice Education Initiative workshops, Search Advocate training, and other courses or professional development workshops with the approval of the Core Advising Committee. The faculty is still considering other options, additional ways to satisfy the requirement may become available.