

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO :: DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

Instructions for Examiners of M.Sc. (Option II) Oral Examinations.

The M.Sc. Oral Examination is intended to evaluate the quality of the work presented for Option II of the M.Sc. degree. The examination committee consists of the student's supervisor, who will act as non-voting Chair, and two Faculty assessors. Each member of the examination committee should have received the written Report at least one week in advance of the examination so that they have read it before the examination.

The examination committee is required to provide two grades, one for the Report of the Research Project (PHY3400L), the other for the oral presentation and defence by the candidate (the PHY7000-series Seminar Course). [The grade which the supervisor has given the candidate for the 6000-series Research Course (based on the supervisor's evaluation of the student's research performance during the student's first two academic terms) will be available to the committee, as will the grades for four graduate lecture half courses (or equivalent); however, the grade for the Report Course and the Seminar Course should be decided by the committee independently of this information.]

The Research Project (formally included in the Research Course, the Report, and the Seminar Course) is intended to constitute the same work load as three full graduate lecture courses, and due allowance should be given to the fact that it has been completed in one calendar year, in which two graduate lecture courses are being taken concurrently. The research should attack a significant scientific question, but need not involve extensive calculation or the construction of any new piece of experimental equipment. The candidate should be able to demonstrate that the candidate has successfully learnt some of the fundamentals of pursuing research in the chosen field of study, and has the ability to explain and defend the methodology. The work should be brought to a point where the potential of the research is demonstrated and the candidate's ability to carry out independent research can be evaluated.

The meaning which is attached to the Graduate course grades is as follows:

Letter Grade	Grade Meaning	Numerical Meaning	Letter Grade	Grade Meaning	Numerical Meaning
A ⁺	Outstanding	90-100%	B ⁺		77-79%
A	Excellent	85-89%	B	Good	73-76%
A ⁻	Very Good	80-84%	B ⁻		70-72%
			FZ	Inadequate	0-69%

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Report of the M.Sc. (Option II) Examination of:

(Candidate)

Points to be considered in grading the written Report (the Report Course, PHY3400L):

- It is not intended to be a small thesis, and the 12,000-word limit should be strictly adhered to. It is not archival, and will be returned to the candidate after the examination. An introduction to the subject, detailed reference to previous work done in the field, professionally produced tables and graphs, etc., are not required. However, it should be readable, well organised, and provide a clear description of the method of research and the results obtained.
- In grading the oral presentation and defence (the PHY7000-series Seminar Course) it should be borne in mind that the student will not have great experience in oral presentations. Some of the following criteria should be considered in the evaluation:

the organisation of the material,
the clarity of expression,
the ability to think on one's feet,
the ability to answer questions on the research performed,
the ability to concentrate on important rather than trivial issues.

After having read the Research Report of the candidate, and having met with the candidate on (date) we have assigned the following grades:

For the Report Course, PHY3400L ... the grade of _____

For the Seminar Course (indicate the appropriate one),

PHY7001L - Atmospheric Physics Seminar

PHY7002L - Biophysics Seminar

PHY7003L - Condensed Matter Physics Seminar

PHY7004L - Geophysics Seminar

PHY7005L – Quantum Optics Seminar

PHY7007L - Subatomic Physics and Astrophysics Seminar

... the grade of _____

(Committee Members)