

Graduate Program in Physics at MIT Numbers

77	Faculty
600	Applications per year
100	Offered Admission
43	Accept -> 43% yield
5.6	Average Years to a PhD
~3	Student/Faculty

Graduate Program in Physics at MIT Program Review

We carried out a thorough review of all aspects of our graduate program in 2001.

No major changes were made; rather there was a fair amount of “fine tuning”.

In particular, the structure of the General Exam remained the same. The students on the committee supported this.

Graduate Program in Physics at MIT

Course Requirements

2 Subjects in one's research area

2 Breadth subjects

Graduate Program in Physics at MIT

General Exam

Part I, Written, 5 hours

20 short problems on undergraduate material

3 tries, then a special oral if one fails last try



Graduate Program in Physics at MIT

General Exam

Part II, Written, 5 hours

4 problems in 4 separate areas

Classical, QM, E&M, Statistical and Thermo.

Choose 1 of 2 in each area

2 tries, then special oral if one fails last try



Graduate Program in Physics at MIT

General Exam

Part III, Oral, ~1.5 hours

In general (not specific) area of research

One committee of 3 faculty for all in given area



Graduate Program in Physics at MIT Attrition

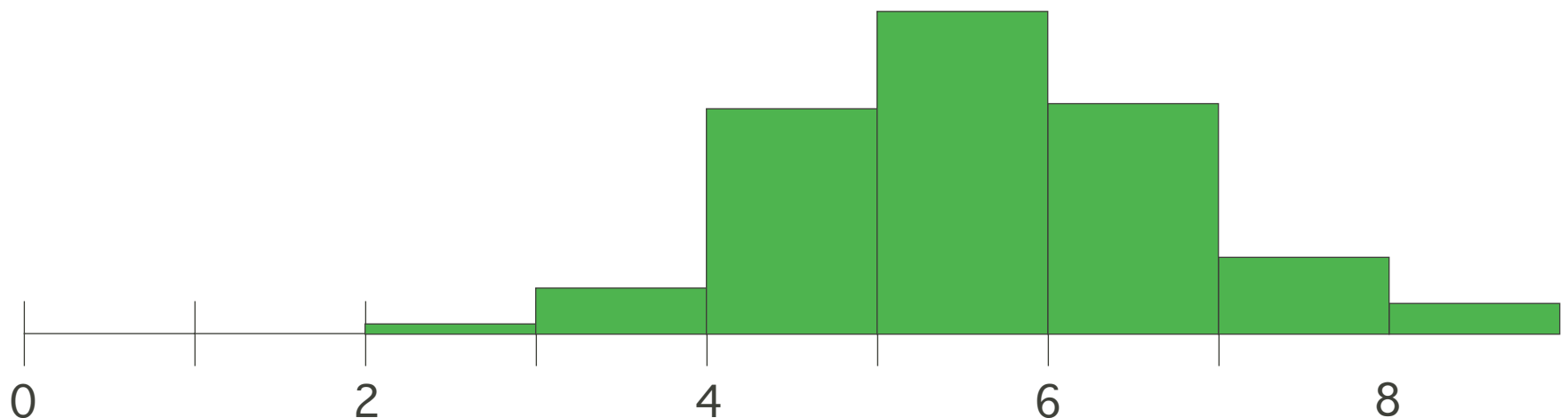
We lose about 4% of our students due to the General Exams and about 14% for other reasons. This sums to an attrition rate of about 18%. About half of these leave with a Master's Degree



Graduate Program in Physics at MIT

Thesis and Graduation

Average time to a Ph.D. is 5.6 years.



Graduate Program in Physics at MIT

The Complete Story

Guidelines for Physics Doctoral Candidates

<http://web.mit.edu/physics/graduate/current/curdocguide.html>