

# New physics degree to be offered

■ The Applied Physics Masters Program will give students experience through internships

By Maggie Young  
Oregon Daily Emerald

A new physics degree, the Applied Physics Masters Program, will be offered beginning fall 2000 at the University.

The degree, which focuses on industrial experience as an alternative to the existing master's and doctoral degrees, was approved in an executive meeting by the State Board of Higher Education last week.

The main goal of the new master's program is to give students hands-on experience through internships with businesses in the community.

Previously, physics students had two educational choices, said Dietrich Belitz, physics department head. They can either get a master's degree in physics, which has few practical applications, or a doctorate, which focuses on research.

This degree was implemented in response to the demand in the industry for students who have a background in physics but who aren't researchers, Belitz said.

"Students with a doctoral degree in physics aren't ideal for jobs in industry," Belitz said. "They learn to do research, and they don't need that skill for industrial work."

In order to prepare students for the industrial work force, the new degree combines a set of courses that is tailored to the needs of industry with intern-

## Requirements for the Applied Masters Program

An undergraduate degree in physics or a related area.

A 3.0 grade point average in advanced physics and mathematics courses.

Submission of Graduate Examinations Record scores.

A passing grade on the masters qualifying exam.

A professional focus on industrial work as opposed to research work.

SOURCE: physics.uoregon.edu/belitz/apm.html

ships in the field, Belitz said.

"This program has a much more applied focus where students can take what they learn and use it in the field," Belitz said.

Sophomore physics major Aaron Taggart said the best part of the degree is the opportunity to get a master's degree in only one year. He said he hopes to join the program once he has completed his undergraduate degree.

"In this program, you can get started with real life faster," he said.

A pilot program is now in effect through the Material Science Institute. This summer course was first offered in the summer of 1998, and five students were enrolled. Each student was placed in an industry internship, and four of the five have been placed in permanent positions in those companies.

The program gives students specialized information that is essential if they want to work in the industry, said physics Professor David Cohen. But, it is not as specific as to give out the instructions on how to operate machinery, he said.

"We teach concepts such as how transistors work and how they are constructed instead of how to operate machinery," Cohen said.

The effects of this program on the physics department will include a shift in classes' focuses and may eventually eliminate certain fields of study. This is a natural process that has occurred with other programs in the past such as the nuclear physics program, he said.

There are no definite plans for additional faculty, so the professors may spread themselves thin, Cohen said.

"We're working on overload with the pilot program," Cohen said. "I now teach over the summer when I don't usually do that. It takes away from research time, but we're willing to put in the extra effort because we believe in this program."

Those interested in applying for the Applied Physics Masters program should contact the Department of Physics at 346-4751 or the graduate secretary at gradsec@zebu.uoregon.edu.

## Housing

Continued from Page 1

munal living space and would prefer a quiet, clean area to themselves instead.

However, Zellar said she believes law students would enjoy living in a housing community with graduate students of various other departments.

"I think law students would love to interact with other students," Zellar said.

Interacting, especially with the community, is what made first-year graduate student Ruth Klein take the opposition. Klein felt besides isolating graduate students from the Eugene community, the proposed project is too similar to the housing options that already exist on and around campus.

Klein said she does not mind the daily 30-minute commute to her apartment. She said graduate students should learn to deal with the noise and distractions of the real world rather than isolating themselves on this campus.

Eyster said if the housing department should decide to pursue this project, he wants to tailor it to the needs of the students who are going to live there.

“This is a market that we don't serve and nobody, it looks, is serving. We're talking about something that is very small and would simply add more variety.”

Michael Eyster  
University Housing Director

One challenging difference students and the housing department will have to overcome might be rent prices in the new units. At this point, the project is in a rudimentary stage, and the size and nature of the apartments or studios have yet to be determined.

But Eyster estimated that the monthly rent of a one-bedroom apartment will be in the vicinity of \$700. Students unanimously agreed that the amount is unrealistic and said their financial resources only allow them to allocate a maximum of about \$350 to paying rent.

Nancy Wright, director of facilities for University Housing, emphasized that the department is now merely exploring the possibility of pursuing the project and that studios might tailor students' needs and budgets better than one-bedroom apartments.

great people. great fun.  
great experience.

Don't miss out.  
Work for your college paper.

For more information on how to freelance for the Oregon Daily Emerald call 346-5511.

Read Jake Ortman's Computer & Technology column. Only at [www.dailyemerald.com](http://www.dailyemerald.com)

Great Stuff for your Halloween Fun

## Screaming Mimi's

782 Blair Blvd.  
(8th & Monroe)

The place to shop for new and used clothing, gifts, and costumes great for theme parties. Come experience the fun!

Is a  
**UO MBA**  
in your future?

-Information Session-

Thursday, Oct. 28th  
4:00-5:00 PM in Gilbert 310

Get information that  
may help you plan  
for later.

Like SportsCenter With Staples.

ESPN The Magazine —  
A convenient, portable version of the excitement and attitude of ESPN.

Special \$13 Discount Student Rate!  
Use attached coupon or call  
1-888-335-ESPN

**STUDENT SAVINGS Certificate**  
Please send me ESPN The Magazine at the special student rate of 26 issues for \$13. (Wow, that's only 50 cents an issue!)

Payment Enclosed  
 Bill Me

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: ESPN The Magazine  
P.O. Box 37328  
Boone, IA 50037-0328

S9JBMA