

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF SCIENCE**

**Credit Unit Statement
Master of Science in the field of Physics**

(applicable to students admitted in the academic year 2026-27 and thereafter)

1. General guideline for contact hours requirement in the Master of Science in the field of Physics

- (a) A 6-credit course has around 120 total study hours, including contact hours, study time, assignment and assessment.
- (b) About 30% of the total study hours are actual contact hours in the form of a class, e.g. lecture and tutorial/discussion hours.
- (c) A 6-credit course has around 24-36 lecture hours.
- (d) For lecture-based courses, normally there will be tutorial/discussion sessions.
- (e) For courses employing a non-lecture or lab-based approach, e.g. IT-based, project-based or seminar courses, students are expected to devote about 60-90 hours for a 3-credit course, 120-180 hours for a 6-credit course, and 180-270 hours for a 9-credit course.
- (f) The total load of this program is 60 credits which is equivalent to around 1,200-1,400 study hours (inclusive of 310-360 contact hours).

2. Credit Unit Statement of the Master of Science in the field of Physics

The MSc degree in the field of Physics consists of four major types of courses based on the learning activities. The majority of courses in the programmes are 6 credits. Examples of the contact hour requirements for the four categories of courses are described as follows.

(a) Lecture-based courses (6 credits)

Contact hours: 24-36 hours of lectures and/or tutorials for 6 credits

These courses are taught predominantly by lectures and tutorials. Assessment is by a combination of examination (0-50%) and continuous assessment (50-100%). Continuous assessment tasks include written assignments (totalling no more than 8,000 words) such as essays and project reports, quizzes, mid-term tests, and oral presentations.

(b) Lecture with laboratory component courses (6 credits)

Contact hours: 30-36 hours of lectures and/or tutorials

These courses are taught by a combination of lectures and laboratory/practical sessions. Assessment is by a combination of examination (0-50%) and continuous assessment (50-100%). Continuous assessment tasks include coursework (totalling no more than 8,000 words) such as assignments, essays, computer coding tasks, laboratory reports, project reports, quizzes, mid-term tests, and oral presentations.

(c) Seminar course (3 credits)

This course aims to initiate students into research culture, research ethics and to develop a capacity for communication with an audience of varied background. Students are expected to attend about 20 hours of lectures, research colloquia and seminars, and spend about 50 hours on written assignment, reading, self-study and oral presentation preparation. Assessment (by 100% coursework) includes written assignments related to the lectures, colloquia and seminars attended (50%) and a 15-minute oral presentation, which includes a presentation component and a question and answer component (50%).

(d) Capstone project (9 credits)

This course aims at providing students with an opportunity to pursue their own research interest under the supervision of a teacher. The teacher will meet with the student regularly to discuss project progress. The total number of contact hours is about 24 hours. In addition, students are expected to devote about 180 hours of self and/or group study, research and/or experimental work for their project. Assessment (by 100% coursework) includes research reports, a final project dissertation (totalling no more than 20,000 words), and an oral presentation.