**SENATE PROGRAM PROPOSAL FORM**

**Department**: Physics & Astronomy  
**Approved By**: Bernard Feldman  
**Date**: 2/8/12

**Department**: Arts & Sciences  
**Approved By**: Ronald Yasbin  
**Date**: 3/20/12

**Routing**:  
- **Academic Affairs**: BAT 3/21/12  
- **Graduate School**: MEH 9/21/12  
- **Senate C & I**: MTA 10/28/12  
- **Reported to Senate Academic Affairs**

**Title of Degree, Minor, or Certificate Program**: Physics and Astronomy, MS

**Page(s) and year of the current Bulletin listing**:  
If other departments are affected by this proposal, please secure “sign-offs” and indicate for each department the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Contact Person</th>
<th>Phone #</th>
<th>Proposal received: □ No major objections, □ Objections</th>
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**Current Bulletin listing**:  
**Proposed Bulletin listing**:  
**Rationale**: This removes a loophole that had allowed students to get a master’s degree even though they had earned several hours of C and F grades at the graduate level.

### Graduate Degree Requirements

#### Master's

A student must complete 30 credit hours in graduate physics courses with at least 15 of these at the 5000 or 6000 level. Writing a thesis is optional. A maximum of six (3) credit hours of Research, PHYSICS 6490, may be counted toward the minimum 15 hours with (or without) the thesis option. Students must pass a comprehensive examination, which includes a defense of the thesis for students who have chosen to write one. A grade point average of 3.0 must be maintained during each academic year. The requirements must be fulfilled within six years from the time of admission. Two-thirds of required graduate credit must be taken in residence. There is no foreign language requirement.

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