

Doctoral Studies in Physics

SMU's Department of Physics strives to be at the very frontier of what is new and important in the field. Our physicists actively study the origin of mass, map the properties of elusive and mysterious neutrinos, look for the source of dark matter, explore the expansion history of the universe, and craft a powerful and consistent theoretical framework to explain the fundamental laws of the universe.

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SMU is part of several significant international projects. As a result, students have access to a range of resources:

- The ATLAS experiment at the Large Hadron Collider at CERN in Switzerland
- The Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument at Kitt
 Peak
- The NOvA Experiment at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in Illinois
- The McDonald Observatory at Fort Davis
- The SuperCDMS Dark Matter Experiment at SNOLAB in Canada
- Probe of Inflation and Cosmic Origins (PICO) and CMB-S4 programs







Quality Education

Southern Methodist University is a highly renowned research institution with a small community feel. Because of its size, students build stronger connections to their faculty mentors and enjoy an individualized education that fits their research interests and career goals. In addition, SMU equips researchers with access to the ManeFrame II cluster with its over 630 teraflops of computational power provided by high–performance CPUs, GPUs, and networking. Students have applied the system to the study of the Higgs particle, the search for particles of dark matter, and advanced machine learning physics applications.

Exceptional Student Support

SMU provides great benefits to its Ph.D. students, including competitive financial support, free tuition, and free health insurance. All students in good standing receive teaching or research stipends and tuition waivers during the academic year; students typically work as teaching assistants during their first two years and then receive research support after successful completion of the Ph.D. candidacy requirements. Outstanding candidates are also eligible for competitive university fellowships.

Application Priority Deadline: December 15



Accessible Location

Dallas, Texas is a vibrant metropolitan city with so many things to explore, big and small. The city is emerging as one of the country's major high tech centers, with many opportunities to professionally connect to various industries. From great restaurants and shopping to easily accessible public transportation near campus, the Dallas Metro area has a lot to offer graduate students who come here seeking the next stage in their professional career.

For more information about our courses, research, and admissions requirements, please visit our website at physics.smu.edu.