

# **BRYN MAWR COLLEGE**

Department of Physics

## *Honors in Physics*

The degree of Bachelor of Arts is awarded with honors in physics in recognition of excellence in research in addition to competence in course work. The award, which is made upon the recommendation of the department, is based on the quality of a Senior Thesis presented to the department by the student and normally on achievement of a GPA of at least 3.4 in 200- and 300-level courses in physics (excluding Physics 380 and Physics 390), and an overall GPA of at least 3.0.

The senior thesis is normally based on, and is normally part of, work done in a Supervised Unit of Research (e.g., Physics 403). However, it may also be based on the student's independent or supervised research done elsewhere while she is an undergraduate in good standing at Bryn Mawr College.

The thesis is to be aimed at an audience with the mathematical and physical background of a senior physics major and must be essentially self-contained. It must include:

- 1) a general introduction to the field of study;
- 2) a clear presentation of the thesis problem and of its context in this field
- 3) a discussion of the experimental, mathematical, or computational techniques used
- 4) a discussion of the results obtained, their relationships with results obtained by other investigators and of new problems, if any, that are raised as a consequence of the student's results.

The following criteria shall be used by the department in judging the quality of the thesis:

- 1) originality
- 2) evidence of the student's insight in the field of her project
- 3) usefulness of the work in understanding the field of the project, or in establishing its connections with other field, or in stimulating or facilitating further work.

The completed thesis must be submitted to the department on or before the deadline set by the college for the submission of written work in the last semester of the student's senior year.