

WYANT COLLEGE OF OPTICAL SCIENCES

QISE EMPHASIS REQUIREMENTS (version 2026.06.18)

MS Thesis option: 26 units of coursework + 6 units of OPTI 910: Thesis = 32 total units
MS Report option: 29 units of coursework + 3 units of OPTI 909: Report = 32 total units

- * Total coursework units include Core and Approved Elective units (below) + 3 additional units of any graded OPTI coursework not listed below.
- * With advisor and Associate Dean approval, up to 3 units of OPTI 599: Independent Study may be taken in place of the same number of units of Approved Electives.
- * Courses listed as available online may require a minimum online enrollment to be offered as a distance course in any given semester.

CORE COURSES I - COMPLETE 2 OF THE FOLLOWING: 6 UNITS TOTAL	Units	Term	Online?	Prereq
OPTI 570 Quantum Mechanics (or other graduate-level Quantum Mechanics course)	3	F	yes	At least one undergraduate or graduate course in quantum mechanics
OPTI 544 Foundations of Quantum Optics	3	S	yes	OPTI 570 or equiv
CORE COURSES II - COMPLETE 1 OF THE FOLLOWING: 3 UNITS TOTAL	Units	Term	Online?	Prereq
OPTI 646 Introduction to Quantum Information and Computation	3	F	yes	OPTI 570 or equiv. OPTI 544 recommended
OPTI 647B Photonic Quantum Information Processing	3	S	yes	OPTI 570 and OPTI 647A recommended
CORE COURSES III - COMPLETE 1 OF THE FOLLOWING: 3 UNITS TOTAL	Units	Term	Online?	Prereq
OPTI 560 Quantum Nanophotonics	3	S	yes	E&M (OPTI 501 or equiv), intro. QM (OPTI 511R)
OPTI 595B Information in a Photon	3	S	yes	complex numbers, probability, linear algebra

APPROVED ELECTIVES - 11 UNITS FOR MS THESIS OPTION OR 14 UNITS FOR MS REPORT OPTION (includes minimum 2 units of lab courses)				
* Thesis and Report options allow for 3 units outside of the approved elective list to satisfy total coursework units requirements.				
* With Faculty Advisor and Associate Dean approval, a student may use a suitable course in place of one of the approved electives in this list.				
* Any units beyond 12 from courses in the Core Course list will count towards elective units				
Elective lab courses - AT LEAST TWO LAB COURSES	Units	Term	Online?	Prereq
<i>One lab may be waived for relevant industry experience (with Assoc. Dean approval)</i>				
OPTI 511L Lasers and Solid-State Devices	1	F		OPTI 511R or other QM course; or 507 co-req
OPTI 571L Optical Physics Computational Laboratory	1	F	yes	OPTI 570 or equiv
OPTI 587L Photonics Communications Laboratory	1	S		
OPTI 572 Quantum Photonic Integrated Circuits (Not currently offered)	3	S	yes	E&M (OPTI 501 or equiv), intro. QM (OPTI 511R)
Approved Elective courses	Units	Term	Online?	Prereq
OPTI 501 Electromagnetic Waves	3	F	yes	
OPTI 503A Math Methods for Photonics and Optics	3	S	yes	
OPTI 507 Solid-state Optics	3	F		OPTI 511R, OPTI 570, or other QM course
OPTI 508 Probability and Statistics in Optics	3	S	yes	
OPTI 509 Statistical Optics	3	F		OPTI 501, OPTI 508
OPTI 511R Optical Physics and Lasers (this course is a basic intro to quantum mechanics)	3	S	yes	OPTI 501 preferred; linear algebra
OPTI 530 Optical Communications Systems (aka Photonics Systems or Phot. Comm.)	3	F	yes	
OPTI 539A From Photonics Innovation to Marketplace	3	S	yes	
OPTI 541A Introduction to Laser Physics (Fall semesters are online only)	1	F/S	yes	
OPTI 541B Laser Systems and Applications	1	F	yes	
OPTI 541C Ultrafast Optics	1	F	yes	
OPTI 553 Nonlinear Photonics	3	F	yes	OPTI 501 or equivalent
OPTI 596-004 Advanced Quantum Optics (Course number TBD)	3	F		OPTI 544
OPTI 596-006 Elements of Nonlinear Optics (Course number TBD)	3	S		OPTI 501
OPTI 600G Laser Beams and Resonators	1	S		OPTI 501
OPTI 600K Cavity Optomechanics I	1	S		OPTI 501. Rec: OPTI 570, OPTI 600G or OPTI 541A
OPTI 600L Cavity Optomechanics II	1	S		OPTI 600K
OPTI/ECE 632: Advanced Optical Communication Systems	3	S		OPTI 530 or equiv
OPTI 647A Photonic Gaussian Information (same as OPTI 596-005 in Fall 2024)	3	F		OPTI 570 or equiv
ECE 501B Linear Systems Theory	3	F	yes	
ECE 503 Probability and Random Processes	3	F	yes	
ECE 534 Advanced Topics in Optical and Electronic Materials (not offered every year)	3	S		
ECE 535A Digital Communications Systems I	3	S	yes	
ECE 536A Free-space Opt. Comm. Systems (not offered every year)	3		yes	
ECE 537 Digital Communications Systems II (not offered every year)	3	F		
ECE 540 Quantum Sensing and Quantum Machine Learning	3	F	yes	
ECE 543 Quantum Communications and Quantum Networks (every other year)	3	F	yes	
ECE 555 Intro to Quantum Mechanics and Quantum Information Processing	3	S		
ECE 571 Fundamentals of Information and Network Security	3	S	yes	
ECE 578 Fundamentals of Computer Networks	3		yes	
ECE 632 Advanced Optical Communications Systems	3			
ECE 633 Q. Inf. Processing and Q. Error Correction (not offered every year)	3	F		
ECE 635 Error Correction (not offered every year)	3	F		
ECE 636 Information Theory	3		yes	
ECE 639 Detection and Estimation in Engineering Systems	3	S	yes	
INFO 520 Ethical Issues in Information	3	F,S,Sum	yes	
LAW 695 Special topics in the law: The Past and Future Internet	3			see course catalog for details, availability
not currently offered:				
OPTI 510R Photonics	3	S	yes	basic E&M, OPTI 501 preferred