

Peter Ware Higgs

Doctor of Science

Due to an inability to attend the UNC–Chapel May Commencement, Peter Higgs received the degree of Doctor of Science honoris causa from Chancellor Carol Folt on March 3, 2015, at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland.

Peter Higgs is professor of physics and astronomy emeritus at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. He received the 2013 Nobel Prize in Physics “for the theoretical discovery of a mechanism that contributes to our understanding of the origin of mass of subatomic particles.”

Higgs spent 1965-1966 at the Bahson Institute of Field Physics at UNC-Chapel Hill, writing a theoretical paper that lies with work completed by European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN). CERN unveiled the final piece of the standard model of elementary particle physics in July 2012 with the announcement of a Higgs boson-like particle, named after Higgs. This theoretical framework describes all fundamental particles and forces except for gravity.

Higgs and others advanced the theory that elementary particles acquire their mass from their interactions with the Higgs field, also of his namesake, that permeates all space. Finding the Higgs boson-like particle means the Higgs field really exists.