

Fall 2020 Illinois Physics Grad Student Orientation

□ **Introductions and General Information** (~70 minutes)

Lance Cooper.....Welcome

Luke Prunkard.....Information on Facilities/Keys/Inventory

Rebecca Wiltfong.....Information on My Physics/Website

Elaine Schulte.....Information for Graduate Teaching Assistants

Celia Elliott....Information about Graduate Fellowships

Mary Schlembach.....Information on the Physics Library

Rachel Nguyen.....Physics Grad Student Association

Shubhang Goswami and Kai Shinbrough....Graduate Employees Organization

□ **Break** (15 minutes)

□ **Grad Program Information** (~20 minutes)

Lance Cooper....Overview of the Illinois Physics Grad Program

□ **TA Training Session:** 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. (Elaine Schulte and others)

New Grad Student Checklist

□ By now, you should have done the following:

- ☒ Completed your employment paperwork (I-9 form, New Hire form) if you're a TA or RA
- ☒ Registered for classes on-line!
 - You must maintain at least 8 credit hours each semester to be a full-time student and keep an assistantship ⇒ No Later than Sept.4!
- ☒ Received and accepted your teaching/research assistantship offer
- ☒ Received your teaching assignment if you're a TA
 - Sign up for mandatory campus TA training next week! Watch TA training "bootcamp" this afternoon

If you haven't done all this yet, or if you have questions/concerns, please contact me soon!

Bookmark the Grad Student Blog!

<https://physics.illinois.edu/academics/graduates/blog/>

GRADUATE STUDENT BLOG

Recent posts ▾

Search blog

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8/11/2020 Lance Cooper
[Madhavan Lab Has Immediate Research Openings For Graduate Students](#)
 The Madhavan lab has immediate research openings for two graduate students who will study new phases of matter that lie at the intersection of topology, strong correlations, and superconductivity.

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7/30/2020 Lance Cooper via Elizabeth Goldschmidt

Current Grad Info

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Information consolidated in Physics Graduate Student Handbook

Curriculum/Course Requirements

<https://physics.illinois.edu/academics/graduates/degree-requirements>

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The Graduate College requires 96 hours (formerly 24 units) of course work for the PhD, **including research units in Physics 597 and Physics 599**. Most physics students having half-time assistantships take 8 hours per semester plus 4 to 8 hours in the summer, so the total credit requirement may be fulfilled in approximately four years. Note that at least 6 hours of PHYS 599 Thesis Research is required; most students have many more.

AS A BREADTH REQUIREMENT, TWO OF THE FOLLOWING SEVEN COURSES ARE REQUIRED

- Physics 540 *Theoretical Astrophysics*
- Physics 550 *Biomolecular Physics*
- Physics 560 *Condensed Matter Physics I*
- Physics 569 *Emergent States of Matter*
- Physics 570 *Subatomic Physics*
- Physics 513 *Topics in Quantum Optics and Information*
- or
- Physics 514 *Modern Atomic Physics*.
- Suitable substitute breadth course(s) approved by the Associate Head for Graduate Programs

Note that only one of either the Physics 560 or Physics 569 courses counts toward the breadth requirement and only one of either Physics 513 or Physics 514 counts toward the breadth requirement.

In addition, all students are urged to take *Quantum Mechanics I and II* (Physics 580 and 581), Mathematical Methods A and B (Physics 508 (MMA) and Physics 509 (MMB)), Classical Electromagnetism (Physics 505), and Statistical Physics (Physics 504). Students will find a number of advanced courses on more specialized topics indispensable in their preparation for research.

The department has no formal language requirement. Graduate students may find it advantageous, however, to be proficient in reading articles in a foreign language. For this reason, graduate students are allowed to enroll in language courses offered in the various language departments at Illinois.

Current Grad Info

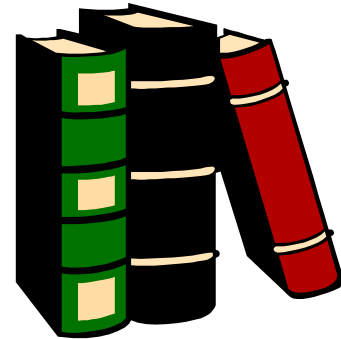
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First Year Courses at UIUC

□ There are few course requirements

- Pick 2 !** {
- Biophysics
 - Nuclear and Particle
 - Astrophysics
 - Quantum Optics & Information or Atomic Physics
 - Condensed Matter or Emergent States of Matter
 - Appropriate substitute course



□ But it's likely you will start with

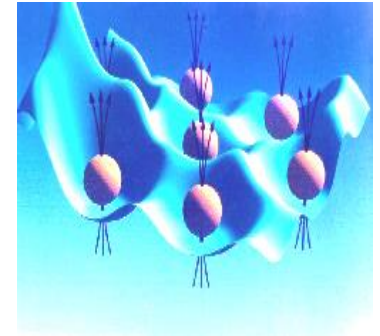
- Quantum Mechanics I and II (580,581)
- Mathematical Methods 1 and 2 (508, 509)
- Electricity and Magnetism (505), Statistical Mechanics (504)
- Undergraduate Quantum 2 (487), E&M 2 (436), Classical Mech 2 (326), Stat Mech (427)

□ And everyone takes 596 (Physics Orientation)

First Few Semesters at UIUC

□ Advanced courses specialize

- Condensed Matter Physics II
- Quantum Field Theory I and II
- Particle Physics
- General Relativity
- Nonequilibrium Statistical Physics
- *Special topics* (Phys 598) courses – one benefit of a big department!!



After your first year or two, you will primarily take research credits:

Physics 597, Independent Study – Graded class, taken prior to prelim

Physics 599, Thesis Research – Taken once you pass your prelim

TAs and RAs should always register for at least 8 credit hours in the Fall and Spring terms to be full-time students! Fellowship students should register for 12 credit hours while on fellowship.

First Few Semesters at UIUC

□ Teaching

- This is important training, giving you an opportunity to make an impression on professors you might do research with, so take it seriously!
- A chance to learn how to be a good teacher: we have many award-winning TAs! This looks good on your resume, especially if you're applying for faculty positions!



First Few Semesters at UIUC

□ The Qual:

- Qual exam has been tentatively rescheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 19 and Wednesday, Jan. 20. Time and location to be determined.
- Qual FAQ and problems can be found here:
<http://physics.illinois.edu/academics/graduates/qual-faq>
- I'll organize a Qual Information Session sometime this fall for those planning to take the qual in Spring 2021.



Qual Exam Info on the Blog

<https://physics.illinois.edu/academics/graduates/qualifying-examination>

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Qual exam information and problems can be accessed here



Research !!

- **Picking an advisor** (there are many available)
 - Physics 596 Research Talks in Fall
 - Research opening advertisements on Grad Student Blog
 - Make your own one-on-one arrangements!
 - Start looking early, attend seminars, talk to faculty!

Condensed Matter Physics
14 experimentalists
10 theorists

High Energy Physics
3 experimentalists
5 theorists

AMO/Quantum Information
6 experimentalists

Medium Energy (Nuclear) Physics
4 experimentalists
2 theorists

Biological Physics
4 experimentalists
3 theorists

Astrophysics/Gravitation/Cosmology
2 experimentalists
7 theorists

Cross-Cutting Research
2 experimentalists

Physics Education Research
3 researchers

Agenda for Phys 596

(Friday, 10:00-11:50 am, Rm. 141 and online):

- Research opportunities in the department, finding advisors, etc.
- Instruction/practice in scientific writing and presentation
- Scientific publishing process, using on-line resources, etc., etc.

<https://courses.physics.illinois.edu/phys596/fa2020/>

Make sure you register for this course! It is required!

Physics 596 - Course Syllabus - Fall 2020

(Syllabus is subject to change!)

Week	Date	Topics	Lectures	Assignments	Reading
1	Aug 28	<p>Introduction and course expectations</p> <p>How to find an advisor</p>	<p>slides</p> <p>slides</p>	<p>Major Group Assignment Create and present a group Journal Club PowerPoint talk + individual referee reports</p>	
2	Sep 4	<p>Research in Experimental Condensed Matter and Quantum Information- Prof. Angela Kou</p> <p>Creating/giving a journal club presentation</p> <p>How to read scientific papers</p>	<p>slides</p> <p>slides</p>		
3	Sep 11	<p>Research in Experimental Biological Physics - Prof. Paul Selvin</p> <p>Research in Experimental Biological Physics - Prof. Ido Golding</p> <p>How to use on-line scientific resources</p>	<p>slides</p>	<p>mini-Assignment #1 On-line resource activities</p>	<p>Resource Activities Prof. Casey Miller's (RIT) advice on using scientific resources</p>
4	Sep 18	<p>Research in Experimental Quantum Information - Prof. Wolfgang Pfaff</p> <p>Research in Theoretical High Energy Physics - Prof. Yoni Kahn</p> <p>On-line research with</p>	<p>slides</p>		

Research !!

- ❑ Interested in applying for a grad fellowship?
 - 1st year and (most) 2nd year grad students are eligible
 - Celia and I will hold a virtual NSF Fellowship Workshop, 6-8 pm on Wednesday, Sept. 16
 - We will hold an NSF Fellowship pre-competition in October
 - Stay tuned to the grad blog for more details!

Years 2-N: Focus on Research

- You'll join a group
 - By no later than the summer after your first year
 - Often supported by an RA but otherwise you can still be a TA
 - Trial research period, and you can still make changes

- Want to attend a conference/workshop not supported by your advisor or do you need supplemental funds for emergencies?
 - Physics Grad Travel Award program

Grad Travel Award Program

TRAVEL FUND APPLICATION

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Department of Physics Graduate Student Travel Award Fund is to provide opportunities for graduate students to participate (remotely or in person) special conferences or workshops, to participate in professional development activities that are not funded by their advisers' research grants, or to supplement student funding for unanticipated medical, financial, or educational expenses. Awards will typically be limited to a maximum of \$600.

APPLICATION SCHEDULE

The 2020-2021 Physics Grad Travel Award program will be divided into three time periods. Applications should be submitted by the following dates if possible:

- **September 1, 2020**, for September 1, 2020 – January 31, 2021 conference participation or supplementary funds
- **February 1, 2021**, for February 1 – May 31, 2021 conference participation or supplementary funds
- **May 1, 2021**, for June 1 – August 31, 2021 conference participation or supplementary funds

Applications *may* be accepted for reimbursements, and *it is preferred that applications be received at least 30 days before funds are needed*. Questions about deadlines and submissions should be directed to Professor Lance Cooper (slcooper@illinois.edu), associate head for graduate programs.

APPLICATION EVALUATION PROCESS

Applications will be reviewed by the associate head for graduate programs, and final decisions will be made by the associate head for graduate programs. Applicants will be informed of the final decisions. All decisions of the associate head are final.

APPLICATION REVIEW CRITERIA

Review criteria include:

1. An assessment of how the proposed conference participation will contribute to the student's professional development **or** a brief explanation describing why supplementary funds are needed.
2. The student's past history of travel support by the department (for conference participation awards).
3. Time remaining to PhD degree (for conference participation awards).

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Years 2-N: Preliminary Exam

<https://physics.illinois.edu/academics/graduates/preliminary-examination>

□ The Prelim

- 15 page paper, oral presentation
- “Proposal” for your thesis research
- Typically in 3rd or 4th year

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Years 2-N: Thesis and Defense

<https://physics.illinois.edu/academics/graduates/thesis>

□ Thesis defense

- Your own personal “book”: you’re the world’s expert!
- Time to Ph.D. ~ 6.5 years on average (depends on field)

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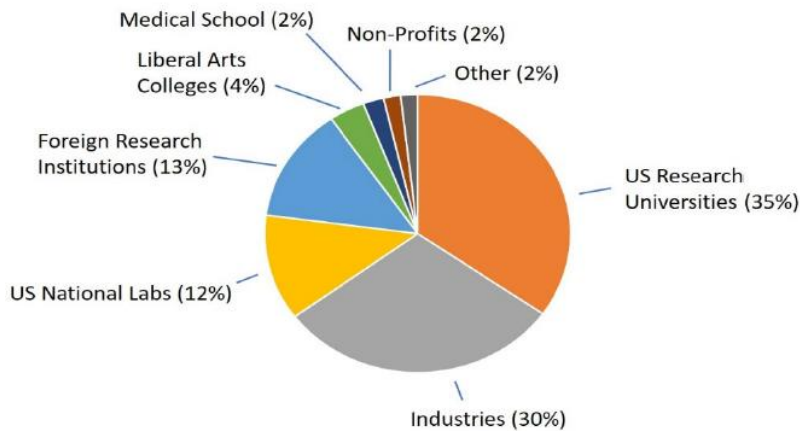


Life After UIUC Grad School

- Universities (post docs and faculty)
- Government Research Laboratories
 - Argonne, Fermilab, Jefferson Lab, NISTs, LANL, Livermore, LBL, Sandia, NRL, ...
- Industry
 - Intel, IBM, AT&T, HP, Microsoft, AMD, Shell, Kodak, and hosts of high-tech start-ups
- Computing (hardware and software)
- Wall Street
- Management consulting
- Science policy
- Science writing and publishing

Illinois Physics PhD Job placement

- We maintain a database of our past ~527 PhD alumni for the past 15 years



Total # UIUC Physics PhD Graduates, 2005 - 2019	527
# UIUC Physics Grads Placed at Graduation, 2005 - 2019	503 (95%)
Postdoc	284 (57%)
US Research Universities	175 (35%)
Industry	151 (30%)
non-US Research Institutions	67 (13%)
US National Laboratories	62 (12%)
Non-Research Universities or Colleges	19 (3.8%)
Medical Schools	11 (2.2%)
Non-Profits	9 (1.8%)
Other	9 (1.8%)

Physics Careers Seminars

<https://physics.illinois.edu/calendar/careers>

Physics Careers Seminars will be virtual through Fall 2020 (at least). I'll circulate a Zoom link to the grad students prior to the seminar. Current schedule (in progress):

PHYSICS CAREERS SEMINAR SCHEDULE, FALL 2020



[Previous Term](#)

[Next Term](#)

EVENT TITLE	SPEAKER	DATE/TIME	LOCATION
Physics Careers Seminar	Dr. Mohammed Sheikh, Deep Learning Researcher, Standard Cognition	9/4/2020 12 p.m.	Virtual Event
Physics Careers Seminar	Dr. Gregg Franklin, MD, PhD, New Mexico Cancer Center	9/25/2020 12 p.m.	Virtual Event
Physics Careers Seminar	Dr. David Hamilton, Low Yield Analysis Engineer, Intel Corporation	10/9/2020 12 p.m.	Virtual Event
Physics Careers Seminar	Dr. Mindy Rak, Physics and Engineering Lab Supervisor, Wheaton College	10/23/2020 12 p.m.	Virtual Event

Other Departmental Seminars

<https://physics.illinois.edu/calendar/seminar>

All departmental seminars should be online and videotaped this fall:

PHYSICS SEMINARS

MONDAYS	TIME	SCHEDULE
Institute for Condensed Matter Theory Seminar	12:00 p.m.	Schedule
Medium & High Energy Physics Seminar	1:00 p.m.	Schedule
Theoretical Biophysics Seminar	3:00 p.m.	Schedule

TUESDAYS	TIME	SCHEDULE
Astronomy Colloquium and Seminars	3:45 p.m.	Schedule

WEDNESDAYS	TIME	SCHEDULE
IQUIST Seminar	1:00 p.m.	Schedule
Astrophysics, Gravitation, and Cosmology Seminar	12:00 p.m.	Schedule
Physics Colloquium	4:00 p.m.	Schedule

THURSDAYS	TIME	SCHEDULE
Mathematical and Theoretical Physics Seminar	1:00 p.m.	Schedule

FRIDAYS	TIME	SCHEDULE
High Energy Phenomenology Seminar	12:00 p.m.	Schedule
Condensed Matter Physics Seminar	1:00 p.m.	Schedule
Biological Physics Seminar	2:00 p.m.	Schedule



Teaching, Taking Classes, and Researching During COVID-19

<https://physics.illinois.edu/academics/graduates/covid-19>

Requirements Due To COVID-19:

COVID-19 Testing

COVID-19 testing is required for ALL faculty, staff, and students who are on-campus for any length of time. Twice per week testing required for all faculty, staff, and students who participate in on-campus activities. Anyone visiting campus (including faculty, staff, students) occasionally are required to be tested and have test results no more than 4 days prior to entering any university facility.

Campus testing locations are listed here: <https://covid19.illinois.edu/on-campus-testing-locations/>



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COVID-19 Resources here and in Section 18 of Grad Handbook



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Requirements Due To COVID-19:

Face Masks

Face coverings/masks are **required** for everyone in university facilities, unless they are alone in a private space. Face coverings/masks are also required outside of facilities if social distancing is not possible.

More information about face masks can be found here: <https://covid19.illinois.edu/face-coverings/>

Testing Positive and Quarantining

All faculty, staff, and students who test positive will be required to isolate and quarantine per guidance by the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District.

More information about quarantining can be found here: <https://covid19.illinois.edu/quarantine/>

Mandatory Online COVID-19 Training

All faculty, staff, and students are required to complete the Division of Research Safety COVID-19 online training. This must be completed even if you are working 100% remotely. Deadline for completion is August 24, 2020. The online training can be found here:

<https://covidtraining.research.illinois.edu/>

Mandatory COVID-19 Return to Campus Info Form

All employees (faculty, staff, TAs, and RAs) must complete this return to campus information form:

<https://forms.gle/kPdeiSxpgzHmuYqaA>

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Various COVID-19 Related Information, Health, and Immigration Resources:

University COVID-19 Website

The University's COVID-19 website with information and resources can be found here:
<https://covid19.illinois.edu/>

Graduate College COVID-19 Updates

The Graduate College maintains a COVID-19 website with information and updates of particular interest to graduate students: <https://grad.illinois.edu/covid-19/updates>

International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS) COVID-19 Updates

International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS) maintains a COVID-19 website with information and updates of particular interest to international graduate students:
<https://iss.illinois.edu/updates/coronavirus.html>

COVID-19 Health Support Resources

The campus maintains a list of virtual counseling and medical support resources available to students: <https://studentaffairs.illinois.edu/node/11962>

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Other COVID-19 Instructional and Employment Information:

Taking Classes Remotely

If you're planning to take classes on-line, you should register for the online (ONL) sections of courses that are being taught in a hybrid mode. International students on F1 visas should register for the in-person section (LEC) of Phys 596, because you're required to take at least one in-person class (you can still attend online if you want).

In Absentia Registration

If you're taking classes remotely more than 50 miles from campus, you can reduce your fees by registering *in absentia*. Note that you will not be covered by student health insurance if you register *in absentia*. International students who register off campus will be automatically given *in absentia* status, so you don't need to apply. However, if you want student health insurance, you'll need to let us or the Grad College know so they can cancel your *in absentia* status. You can find the in absentia form here:

https://grad.illinois.edu/sites/default/files/pdfs/in_absentia.pdf

Guidance for Employees Working In and Away From University Facilities

Illinois Human Resources has created guidance for employees [working within campus facilities](#) and also for employees [working remotely](#).

Classroom Management Guide

Instructors are encouraged to read through the [COVID-19 Classroom Management Guide](#) for further information regarding classroom management.

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Teaching, Taking Classes, and Researching During COVID-19

<https://physics.illinois.edu/academics/graduates/covid-19>

Physics Department Specific COVID-19 issues:

Offices

We have limited office space, so those needing office space will have to share the space and occupy the office one person at a time. We'll circulate a poll soon to see (i) if you want office space and, if so, (ii) if you'd prefer to have assigned specific days each week or specific hours each day to occupy the office.

Instructional Resources

The department has a very limited number of loaner instructional resources (e.g., webcams, tablets, etc.) for teaching this fall. We will also circulate a poll to try to determine TA instructional needs. There is also a campus Technology Loan Program for hardware and software loans: <https://answers.uillinois.edu/illinois/99680>

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Advice: Get to know your interesting classmates!

Portrait of the diverse Fall 2020 Illinois Physics Graduate Class:

- 78 students in the Fall 2020 grad class enrolling this fall (6 more deferring until Spring or Fall 2021)
- 59 Male, 18 Female, 1 Non-Binary
- 27 International Students, 51 Domestic Students
- Citizenship: US (51), China (10), India (6), Taiwan (2), United Kingdom (2), Australia, Austria, Hong Kong, Mexico, Nepal, Pakistan, Peru, Thailand
- 61 on campus, 14 off campus outside US, 3 off campus in US
- Schools: MIT (4), Brown (2), Michigan (2), Nankai (2), National Tsing Hua (2), Ohio St. (2), Purdue (2), Swarthmore (2), UIUC (2), Akron, Alberta, Arizona, Arizona St., Bates, Berkeley, Boston Coll., Carnegie-Mellon, Carthage, Case Western, Central Florida, Chennai Math, Chicago, Clark, Colby, Colgate, Columbia, Cornell Coll., Cornell U., Depaul, Edinburgh, George Tech, Harvey Mudd, Haverford, Hong Kong U, Houston, IIT-Madras, Kentucky, Kenyon, Loyola U, Mass-Amherst, Nat. Taiwan, Nat. Univ. Mexico, North Carolina St., Northeastern, Oxford, Pennsylvania, Pont U Cato Peru, Rensselaer Poly Inst., Rice, Rose-Hulman, South Wales, Southern U of Sci and Tech, Stanford, SUNY Binghamton, SUNY Stonybrook, Suranaree, Tennessee, Texas-Austin, Texas-Dallas, Tulane, UC Berkeley, UC Irvine, UCSB, UCSD, Vienna U of Tech, Virginia, William & Mary, Wisconsin

Advice: Keep socially active!

Getting involved with grad social groups helps relieve the stress of grad school. Many of these groups will continue meeting virtually.

- Physics Grad Student Association
- Illinois-GPS: Grad/undergrad mentoring group
- Women in Physics
- Grad Peer Mentoring: Grad mentoring of 1st-year grad students
- Diversity Committee



Advice: Stay safe!

Our campus and community is reasonably safe, but it's important to be aware of your surroundings, particularly at night.



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Advice: Know who to contact if you need help!

Contact me and/or Wendy if you don't know who to ask!

24-Hour Emergency Numbers

Life-threatening fire, police, or medical emergency	9-911 (on-campus) or 911 (off-campus)
Emergency Dean (available 24/7 to assist students or their families in crisis)	333-0050
Domestic Violence Hotline (A Woman's Place)	384-4390
Crisis Line (24-hour suicide prevention and crisis hotline)	244-7911 or 359-4141
Faculty/Staff Assistance Program	244-5312
National Capital Poison Center	1-(800)-222-1222

Non-Emergency Numbers

Fire Departments		Police Departments	
Champaign	403-7200	University of Illinois	333-1218
Urbana	384-2420	Champaign	351-8911
Savoy	359-5814	Urbana	384-2320
Champaign County Sheriff	333-8911	Savoy	333-8911

Hospitals and Medical Services

Carle Hospital Emergency Room	383-3313
Provena Covenant Medical Center Emergency Room	337-2131
McKinley Health Service	333-2701

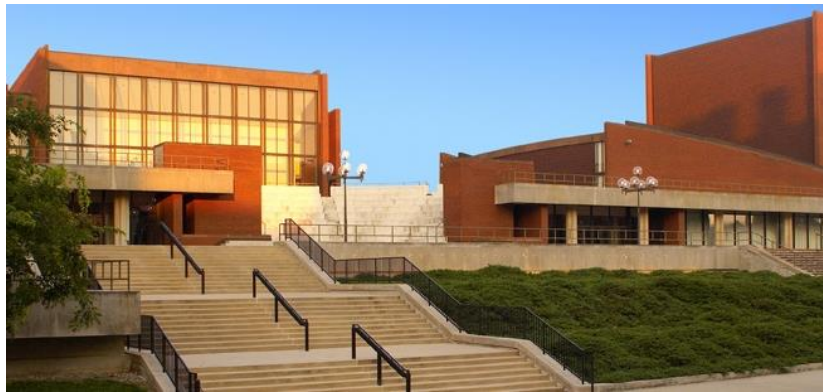
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Advice: Get to know and enjoy the community!

Many parks, restaurants, and facilities are open, but stay safe and socially distanced!



Krannert Center for the Performing Arts



Virginia Theater



Westside
and other
parks

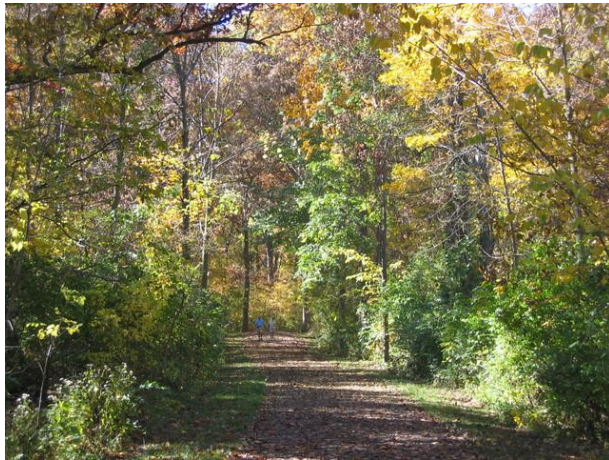


Downtown
Champaign



Cool places in the surrounding area

Lake of the Woods (~15 min)



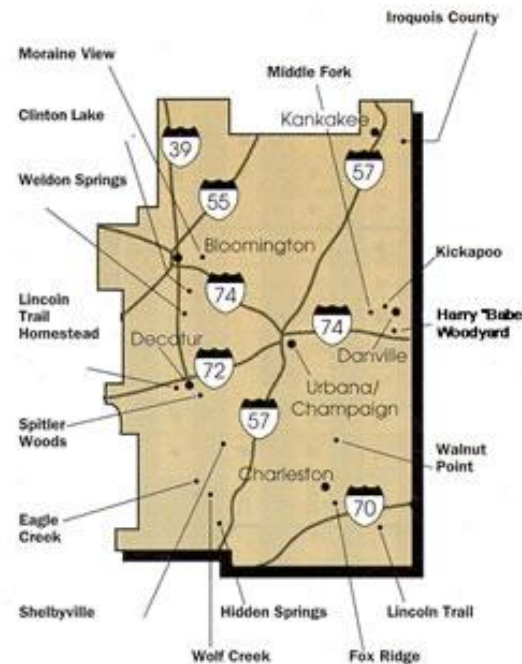
Turkey Run (Indiana, ~1 hr)



Allerton Park (~20 min)



Kickapoo State Park (~30 min)





Cool places in the surrounding area



Chicago (~2.5 hrs)

Indianapolis (~1.5 hrs)

St. Louis (~3 hrs)



Upcoming Departmental Events

- Virtual Micro-aggression Workshop
 - Wednesday, Aug. 19, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Title: Creating an Equitable and Inclusive Cohort

Abstract: Join ***Ross Wantland***, Director of Curriculum Development and Education in the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion, for a conversation about strategies for confronting bias and promoting inclusion as Physics graduate students. This program is designed to be as interactive as Zoom allows, so please plan accordingly (i.e., cameras on, able to type into chat, etc.).

I'll send out a Zoom link and the workshop will be recorded for those participating off-campus

Required workshop for 1st-year physics grad students!

Final Piece of Advice

- And always feel free to e-mail or meet with me if you have problems or questions!

