

# Fall 2021 Illinois Physics Grad Student Orientation

Friday, August 13, 2020 (start time: 10 am Central Time)

□ **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

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

Abhishek Joshi and Dmitry Manning-Coe.....Physics Grad Student Association

Shubhang Goswami, Vaibhav Gupta, and Kai Shinbrough....GEO

□ **Break** (15 minutes)

□ **Grad Program Information** (~25 minutes)

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

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



## New Grad Student Checklist

- Things you should have done or need to do before Aug. 23:
  - ☒ 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 9 credit hours each semester to be a full-time student and keep an assistantship ⇒ No Later than Sept. 3!
  - ☒ 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're having trouble getting any of these things done, please contact me!

# Bookmark the Grad Student Blog!

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

## GRADUATE STUDENT BLOG

Recent posts ▼

Search blog

Go



8/11/2021 Lance Cooper  
[2021 Virtual Prelim/Final Exam Workshop on Wednesday, Sept. 1, 2021](#)  
 The 2021 Virtual Physics Prelim/Final Exam Workshop will be held from 6 - 8 p.m. on Wednesday, September 1, 2021.

8/8/2021 Lance Cooper  
[2021 - 2022 Illinois Physics Graduate Student Handbook Posted](#)  
 The new 2021-2022 Illinois Physics Graduate Student Handbook has been posted on the upper right side of the Physics Grad Student Blog.

8/2/2021 Lance Cooper  
[Summer Colloquium Mini-Series on "Thermalization and Equilibration Dynamics in Quantum and Classical Many-Body Systems"](#)  
 Virtual summer colloquium miniseries on "Thermalization and Equilibration Dynamics in Quantum and Classical Many-Body Systems" hosted at Washington University in Saint Louis.

8/2/2021 Lance Cooper  
[Northrop Grumman Future Technical Leaders Program](#)  
 Northrop Grumman is recruiting PhD and MS students and postdocs for the Future Technical Leaders (FTL) Program. A virtual information session will be held on **Thursday, August 12.**

8/2/2021 Lance Cooper  
[PPG On Campus Interviews for UIUC Professional Positions](#)  
 PPG will be on campus to interview for UIUC Professional positions on August 17, 2021. If interested, please log into your Handshake @ Illinois account, and submit your resume by **Thursday, August 5, 2021.**

### Current Grad Info

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- [Coe College Requirements](#)
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- [COVID-19 Resources](#)

Information consolidated in Physics Graduate Student Handbook



# Campus Building Access Requirements

<https://covid19.illinois.edu/guides/students/>

## First, Download the Safer Illinois App:

<https://covid19.illinois.edu/health-and-support/safer-illinois-app/>

## “Building Access Granted” Status Requires:

**If you’re fully vaccinated:** Upload your vaccination information to the McKinley Portal: <https://mymckinley.illinois.edu/> (Access “Granted” status takes about 1-2 weeks)

**If you’re *not* fully vaccinated:** You will need to take a COVID-19 test *and* receive negative results **twice per week**:

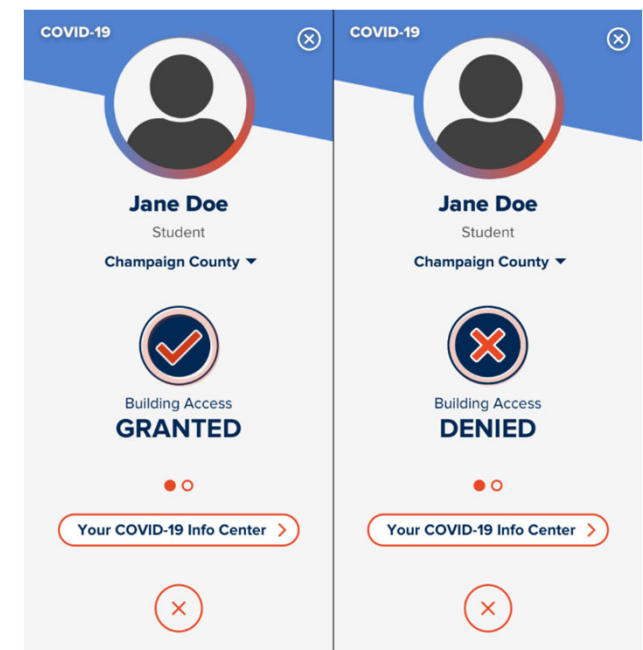
<https://covid19.illinois.edu/health-and-support/on-campus-covid-19-testing/>

## Face Masks are Mandatory for Everyone in Campus Facilities (unless alone in a private space)!

<https://covid19.illinois.edu/health-and-support/face-coverings/>

**To Request Loomis/MRL Building Keys:** Use Key Request on [MyPhysics](https://my.physics.illinois.edu/keys/request/):

<https://my.physics.illinois.edu/keys/request/>





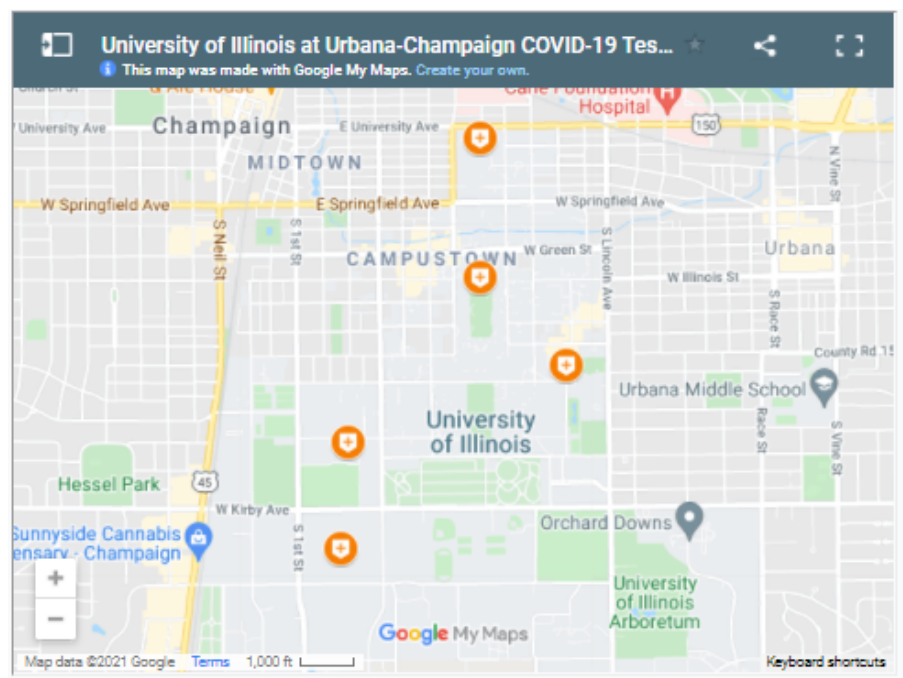
# COVID-19 Testing

<https://covid19.illinois.edu/health-and-support/on-campus-covid-19-testing/>

## Requirements Due To COVID-19:

### COVID-19 Testing Locations

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



# Other COVID-19 Resources

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

## 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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# 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.

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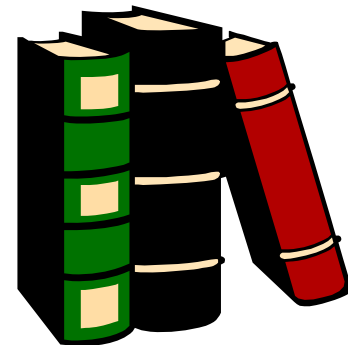


# First Year Courses at UIUC

## □ 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)

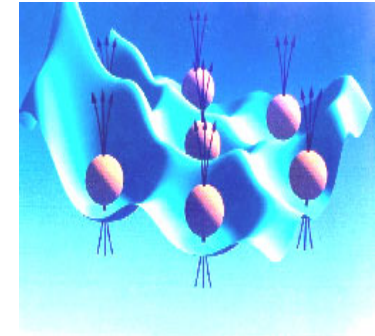
## □ And everyone takes 596 (Physics Orientation)



# 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 9 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

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## □ 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 is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 21 and Sunday, Aug. 22, 12:30 (check in) – 5 pm. The exam starts at 1:00 pm both days. You can register via this link:

<https://my.physics.illinois.edu/grad/qual-signup>




- Room assignments will be sent out early next week
- Qual FAQ and problems can be found here:  
<http://physics.illinois.edu/academics/graduates/qual-faq>
- The August 2021 Qual Information Session can be viewed on-line here:  
[https://mediaspace.illinois.edu/media/t/1\\_b6mgqe20/179926551](https://mediaspace.illinois.edu/media/t/1_b6mgqe20/179926551)

# Qual Exam Info on the Blog

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

## GRADUATE STUDENT BLOG

- Recent posts ▾ Search blog Go 
- 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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8/11/2020 Lance Cooper  
[2020-2021 Illinois Physics Graduate Student Handbook Posted](#)  
 The new 2020-2021 Illinois Physics Graduate Student Handbook has been posted on the upper right side of the Physics Grad Student Blog.

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8/10/2020 Lance Cooper  
[2020 Virtual Prelim/Final Exam Workshop on Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2020](#)  
 The 2020 Virtual Physics Prelim/Final Exam Workshop will be held from 6 - 8 p.m. on Wednesday, September 2, 2020.

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8/5/2020 Lance Cooper  
[Prof. Angela Kou is Looking For Graduate Students to Join Her Lab](#)  
 Prof. Angela Kou is looking for graduate students to conduct experimental research in superconducting circuits and topological materials.

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8/4/2020 Lance Cooper  
[Postdoctoral Opportunity in Hypersonic, Chemically Reacting Flows and Space Flow Plasmas](#)  
 A postdoctoral fellow position in applications in hypersonic, chemically reacting flows and radiation, and space flow plasmas is available in the research group of Professor Deborah Levin.

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7/30/2020 Lance Cooper via Elizabeth Goldschmidt

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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

## Physics 596 - Course Syllabus - Fall 2021

(Syllabus is subject to change!)

[Physics 596 Fall 2021 Channel on Media Space](#)

### 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/fa2021/>

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

Week	Date	Topics	Lectures	Assignments	Reading	Zoom/Video
1	Aug 27	Introduction and course expectations  Finding an advisor and tips for succeeding in grad school	<a href="#">slides</a>  <a href="#">slides</a>	<a href="#">Major Group Assignment</a> Create and present a group Journal Club PowerPoint talk + individual referee reports		<a href="#">Zoom Link</a>  <a href="#">Video Recording</a>
2	Sep 3	<a href="#">Research in Theoretical Condensed Matter - Prof. Taylor Hughes</a>  Creating/giving a journal club presentation  How to read scientific papers	<a href="#">slides</a>  <a href="#">slides</a>			<a href="#">Zoom Link</a>  <a href="#">Video Recording</a>
3	Sep 10	<a href="#">Research in Experimental Biological Physics - Paul Selvin</a>  <a href="#">Research in Theoretical Astrophysics/Relativity/Cosmology - Prof. Nico Yunes</a>  How to use on-line scientific resources  Using Scopus	<a href="#">slides</a>  <a href="#">slides</a>	<a href="#">mini-Assignment #1</a> On-line resource activities	<a href="#">Resource Activities</a>  <a href="#">Prof. Casey Miller's (RIT) advice on using scientific resources</a>	<a href="#">Zoom Link</a>  <a href="#">Video Recording</a>
4	Sep 17	<a href="#">Research in Computational Biological Physics - Prof. Alek Aksimentiev</a>  <a href="#">Research in Experimental Medium Energy Physics - Prof. Anne Sickles</a>  <a href="#">Research in Theoretical Condensed Matter Physics - Prof. Karin Dahmen</a>				<a href="#">Zoom Link</a>  <a href="#">Video Recording</a>

## Research !!

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- Interested in applying for a grad fellowship?
  - 1<sup>st</sup> year and (most) 2<sup>nd</sup> year grad students are eligible
  - Celia and I will hold a virtual NSF Fellowship Workshop, 6-8 pm on Wednesday, Sept. 15
  - 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

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- 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 \$500, although higher award amounts are possible in exceptional circumstances.

### APPLICATION SCHEDULE

The 2021-2022 Physics Grad Travel Award program will be divided into three time periods. Applications should be submitted by the following dates if possible:

- **September 1, 2021**, for September 1, 2021 – January 31, 2022 conference participation or supplementary funds
- **February 1, 2022**, for February 1 – May 31, 2022 conference participation or supplementary funds
- **May 1, 2022**, for June 1 – August 31, 2022 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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> 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

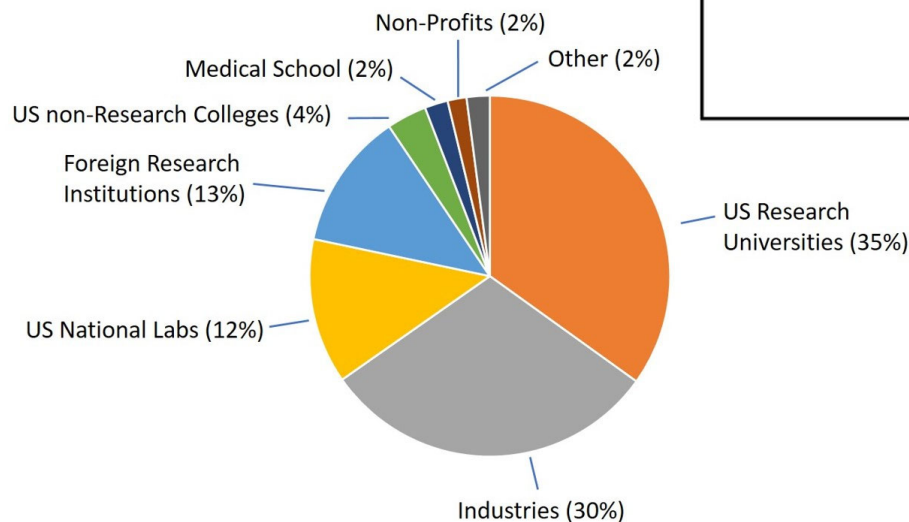
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- Universities (post docs and faculty)
- Government Research Laboratories
  - Argonne, Fermilab, Jefferson Lab, NISTs, LANL, Livermore, LBL, Sandia, NRL, ...
- Industry
  - Intel, IBM, AT&T, HP, Microsoft, AMD, Shell, Kodak, and hosts of high-tech 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 ~561 PhD alumni for the past 16 years

Total # UIUC Physics PhD Graduates, 2005 - 2020	561
# UIUC Physics Grads Placed at Graduation, 2005 - 2020	532 (95%)
Postdoc	297 (56%)
US Research Universities	185 (35%)
Industry	161 (30%)
non-US Research Institutions	69 (13%)
US National Laboratories	65 (12%)
Non-Research Universities or Colleges	19 (3.6%)
Medical Schools	11 (2.1%)
Non-Profits	9 (1.7%)
Other	11 (2.1%)



# Physics Careers Seminars

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

Physics Careers Seminars will be a mix of virtual and in-person seminars through Fall 2021. I'll circulate a Zoom link to the grad students prior to the seminar. Current schedule (in progress):

## PHYSICS CAREERS SEMINAR SCHEDULE, FALL 2021



[Previous Term](#)

[Next Term](#)

EVENT TITLE	SPEAKER	DATE/TIME	LOCATION
<a href="#">Physics Careers Seminar</a>	Dr. Michelle Victora, Software Engineer, RightHand Robotics, Inc.	9/9/2021 12 p.m.	Via ZOOM - see description for link
<a href="#">Physics Careers Seminar</a>	Dr. Srinidhi Ramamurthy, Chief Data Officer, Uplift Inc.	9/16/2021 12 p.m.	TBD
<a href="#">Physics Careers Seminar</a>	Dr. Erik Huemiller, Researcher, General Motors Research & Development	9/23/2021 12 p.m.	Via ZOOM - see description for link
<a href="#">Physics Careers Seminar</a>	Dr. Brianne Gutmann, AAAS Fellow, National Science Foundation	10/22/2021 12 p.m.	TBD

# Other Departmental Seminars

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

Departmental seminars will be a mix of virtual + in-person seminars in Fall 2021

## PHYSICS SEMINARS

MONDAYS	TIME	SCHEDULE
Institute for Condensed Matter Theory Seminar	12:00 p.m.	<a href="#">Schedule</a>
Medium & High Energy Physics Seminar	1:00 p.m.	<a href="#">Schedule</a>
Theoretical Biophysics Seminar	3:00 p.m.	<a href="#">Schedule</a>

TUESDAYS	TIME	SCHEDULE
Astronomy Colloquium and Seminars	3:45 p.m.	<a href="#">Schedule</a>

WEDNESDAYS	TIME	SCHEDULE
IQUIST Seminar	1:00 p.m.	<a href="#">Schedule</a>
Astrophysics, Gravitation, and Cosmology Seminar	12:00 p.m.	<a href="#">Schedule</a>
Physics Colloquium	4:00 p.m.	<a href="#">Schedule</a>

THURSDAYS	TIME	SCHEDULE
Mathematical and Theoretical Physics Seminar	1:00 p.m.	<a href="#">Schedule</a>

FRIDAYS	TIME	SCHEDULE
High Energy Phenomenology Seminar	12:00 p.m.	<a href="#">Schedule</a>
Condensed Matter Physics Seminar	1:00 p.m.	<a href="#">Schedule</a>
Biological Physics Seminar	2:00 p.m.	<a href="#">Schedule</a>

# **Advice:** Get to know your interesting classmates!

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## Portrait of the diverse Fall 2021 Illinois Physics Graduate Class:

- 36 students in the Fall 2021 grad class enrolling this fall (2 more deferring until Spring or Fall 2022)
- 23 Male, 13 Female
- 16 International Students, 20 Domestic Students
- Citizenship: US (20), China (5), India (3), Brazil, Columbia, Kuwait, Mauritius, Pakistan, Singapore, Taiwan, Vietnam
- 34 on campus, 2 off campus outside US (at least temporarily)
- Schools: UIUC (3), Indian Inst Science (2), UC-Berkeley (2), Bowdoin, Cal State-Hayward, Cal Tech, Case Western, Chicago, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Colgate, Colorado, Cornell, Indian Inst Tech-Bombay, Lahore U of Management Sciences, Minnesota, Mount Holyoke, Nat Taiwan U, Northwestern, Ohio State, Oklahoma, National U Singapore, Southern Illinois U, UC-San Diego, U Maryland-Baltimore County, U Nacional de Columbia, U Rochester, Wake Forest, Washington & Lee, West Chester U of Pennsylvania, 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 & Astro
- Grad Peer Mentoring: Grad mentoring of 1<sup>st</sup>-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.



### Current Grad Info

- [Physics Grad Student Handbook](#)
- [Curriculum Requirements](#)
- [Prelim Exam Info](#)
- [Thesis Info](#)
- [MS Degree Requirements](#)
- [CSE Graduate Concentration](#)
- [Useful Non-Physics Courses](#)
- [PHYS 596](#)
- [PGSA](#)
- [Illinois GPS](#)
- [Qual Exam Info](#)
- [New Student Info](#)
- [Ethics Resources](#)
- [Responsible Conduct of Research](#)
- [Research Safety Training/Info](#)
- [Grad Expertise Database](#)
- [Grad Travel Award](#)
- [Grad Student Evaluations](#)
- [Grad College Calendar](#)
- [COE Grad Handbook](#)
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- [Physics Information Resources](#)
- [Useful Forms](#)
- [Health/Safety Resources](#)
- [Counseling/Mental Health Resources](#)
- [MRL Safety Brochure](#)
- [Important Physics Dates](#)
- [Diversity Resources](#)
- [Important Phone Numbers](#)
- [COVID-19 Resources](#)

# Advice: Know who to contact if you need help!

Contact me 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)
<a href="#">Emergency Dean</a> (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
<a href="#">Faculty/Staff Assistance Program</a>	244-5312
<a href="#">National Capital Poison Center</a>	1-(800)-222-1222

## Non-Emergency Numbers

Fire Departments		Police Departments	
Champaign	403-7200	University of Illinois	333-1216
Urbana	384-2420	Champaign	351-8911
Savoy	359-5814	Urbana	384-2320
Champaign County Sheriff	333-8911	Savoy	333-8911

## Hospitals and Medical Services

<a href="#">Carle Hospital Emergency Room</a>	383-3313
<a href="#">Provena Covenant Medical Center Emergency Room</a>	337-2131
<a href="#">McKinley Health Services</a>	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

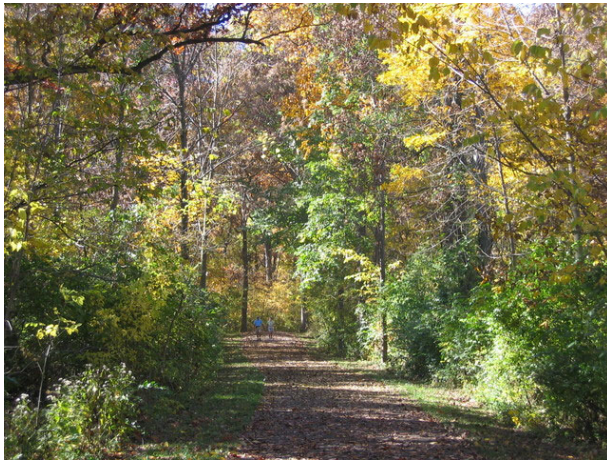


Downtown  
Champaign

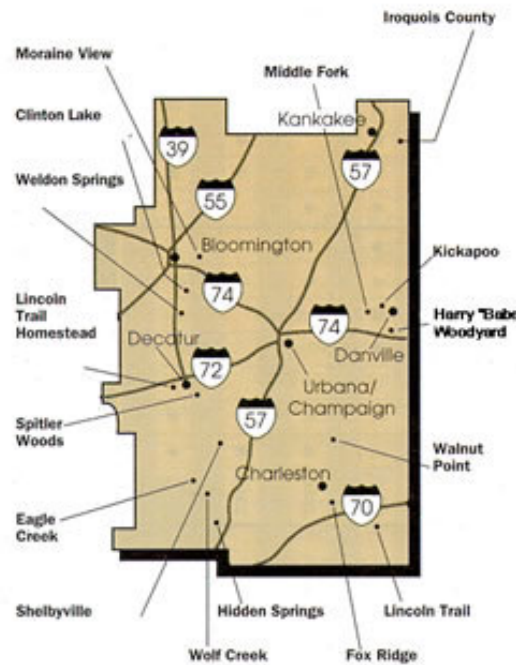


## Cool places in the surrounding area

Lake of the Woods (~15 min)



Kickapoo State Park (~30 min)



Turkey Run (Indiana, ~1 hr)



Allerton Park (~20 min)





# Cool places in the surrounding area



Chicago (~2.5 hrs)

Indianapolis (~1.5 hrs)



St. Louis (~3 hrs)





## Upcoming Departmental Events

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- Annual Micro-aggression Workshop
  - Wednesday, Aug. 18, 1:00 – 2:30 pm
  - Rm. 222/276 Loomis

**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.).

**Required workshop for 1<sup>st</sup>-year physics grad students!**

The workshop will be recorded for those not on campus



# Orientation Events Next Week

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## **Monday and Tuesday, Aug 16, 17: Mandatory Campus TA and Grader Training**

Let me know if you're a TA/grader but haven't received information about these training sessions!

## **Wednesday, Aug 18: Mandatory Microaggressions Workshop**

In-person in Rm. 222/276 Loomis, required for all 1<sup>st</sup>-year physics grad students

## **Thursday and Friday, Aug 19, 20: Intro Course Orientation Meetings**

Elaine Schulte will send you information about the time and place of your respective course meetings

## **Saturday and Sunday, Aug 21, 22: Qualifying Exam**

Will be held in person, 12:30 – 5:00 pm in Loomis. Make sure to register, I'll send room assignments early next week.

## **Monday, Aug 23: Fall 2021 Classes Start**



## Final Piece of Advice

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

