

# Fall 2022 Illinois Physics Grad Student Orientation

Friday, August 12, 2022 (start time: 10 am Central Time)

□ **Introductions and General Information** (~70 minutes) – 222/276 Loomis

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

Danielle Woods.....Physics Grad Student Association

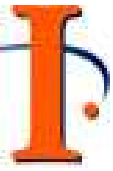
Shubhang Goswami and Kai Shinbrough....Graduate Employees Organization

□ **Break** (15 minutes) – Refreshments in 204 Loomis (Interaction Room)

□ **Grad Program Information** (~25 minutes) – 222/276 Loomis

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

□ **Lunch:** 12:00 noon – Box lunches in 204 Loomis (Interaction Room)



# New Grad Student Checklist

- Things you should have done or need to do before Aug. 22:
  - ☑ Completed your employment paperwork (I-9 form, New Hire form) if you're a TA or RA
    - Nicolette (227 Loomis) and Stephanie (290 K Loomis) will have office hours from 10 am - noon on Monday, Aug. 15 to complete employment paperwork
  - ☑ 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. 2!
  - ☑ 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! Attend TA training "bootcamp" next week

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

Grad Program Overview

[Degree Requirements](#)

[Graduate Student Blog](#)

[Qualifying Examination](#)

[Preliminary Examination](#)

[Final Defense](#)

[Thesis templates](#)

[Student Organizations \(Grad\)](#)

[Travel Fund Application](#)

Recent posts

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August 2, 2022 Lance Cooper

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Information consolidated in Physics Graduate Student Handbook

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



# Current Campus COVID Requirements

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

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## Vaccination Requirement:

All students, faculty and staff (except those who are fully remote and never come to campus or university-affiliated buildings) are required to be fully vaccinated with a university accepted COVID-19 vaccine. If you have not already done so, you are required to receive a final dose and submit your Vaccination Record Card to the [MyMcKinley Portal](https://mymckinley.illinois.edu/):

<https://mymckinley.illinois.edu/>

## COVID-19 Testing

Individuals who do not have a verified Vaccination Record Card on file will be required to test at an on-campus [COVID-19 testing site](https://covid19.illinois.edu/health-and-support/on-campus-covid-19-testing-locations/) once per week. Testing compliance will be monitored and those out of compliance may face student or employee discipline.

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

## Face Mask Policy

Face coverings are **not required** in classrooms or any campus spaces. Face coverings **are required** in healthcare facilities. Face coverings are **not required** in research labs unless non-COVID-related PPE is needed in the research environment.

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





# 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

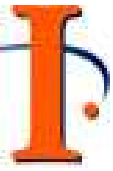
**Note that only one of either the Physics 560 or Physics 569 courses counts toward the breadth requirement and only one of either Physics 513 or Physics 514 counts toward the breadth requirement.**

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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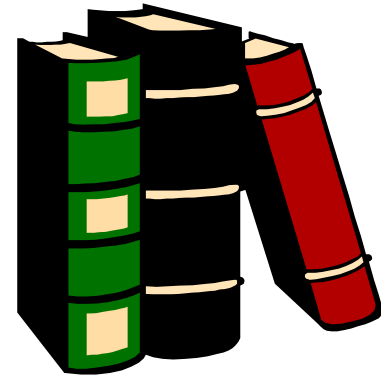


# First Year Courses at UIUC

## □ 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)

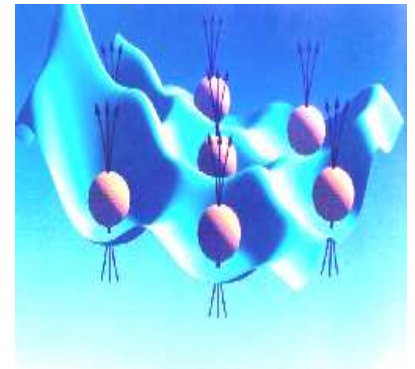
## □ And everyone takes 596 (Physics Orientation)



# 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

## □ 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. 20 and Sunday, Aug. 21, 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>

- Qual will be held in 222/276 Loomis
- Qual FAQ and problems can be found here:  
<http://physics.illinois.edu/academics/graduates/qual-faq>
- The August 2022 Qual Information Session can be viewed on-line here:  
[https://mediaspace.illinois.edu/media/t/1\\_jpv1w5o2/179926551](https://mediaspace.illinois.edu/media/t/1_jpv1w5o2/179926551)



# Qual Exam Info on the Blog

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

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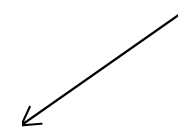
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Qual exam information and problems can be accessed here



# 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 2022

(Syllabus is subject to change!)

[Physics 596 Fall 2022 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/fa2022/>

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

Week	Date	Topics	Lectures	Assignments	Reading	Zoom/Video
1	Aug 26	<p>Introduction and course expectations</p> <p>Finding an advisor and tips for succeeding in grad school</p> <p>Panel discussion with Physics grad students in the Graduate Peer Mentoring (GPM) program</p>	<p><a href="#">slides</a></p> <p><a href="#">slides</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Major Group Assignment</a> Create and present a group Journal Club PowerPoint talk + individual referee reports</p>		<p><a href="#">Zoom Link</a></p> <p><a href="#">Video Recording</a></p>
2	Sep 2	<p>Research in Theoretical Condensed Matter Physics - <a href="#">Prof. Taylor Hughes</a></p> <p>Creating/giving a journal club presentation</p> <p>How to read scientific papers</p>	<p><a href="#">slides</a></p> <p><a href="#">slides</a></p>			<p><a href="#">Zoom Link</a></p> <p><a href="#">Video Recording</a></p>
3	Sep 9	<p>Research in Experimental Biological Physics - <a href="#">Prof. Paul Selvin</a></p> <p>Research in Experimental Condensed Matter Physics - <a href="#">Prof. Peter Abbamonte</a></p> <p>How to use on-line scientific resources</p> <p>Using Scopus</p>	<p><a href="#">slides</a></p> <p><a href="#">slides</a></p>	<p><a href="#">mini-Assignment #1</a> On-line resource activities</p>	<p><a href="#">Resource Activities</a></p> <p><a href="#">Celia's scientific database guide</a></p> <p><a href="#">Casey Miller's scientific resource advice</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Zoom Link</a></p> <p><a href="#">Video Recording</a></p>
4	Sep 16	<p>Research in Computational Biological Physics - <a href="#">Prof. Alek Aksimentiev</a></p> <p>Research in Experimental Condensed Matter Physics - <a href="#">Prof. Fahad Mahmood</a></p>				<p><a href="#">Zoom Link</a></p> <p><a href="#">Video Recording</a></p>

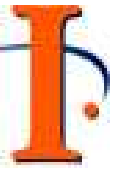


# Research !!

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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 an NSF Fellowship Workshop, 6-8 pm on Wednesday, Sept. 21
  - 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 2022-2023 Physics Grad Travel Award program will be divided into three time periods. Applications should be submitted by the following dates if possible:

- **September 1, 2022**, for September 1, 2022 – January 31, 2023 conference participation or supplementary funds
- **February 1, 2023**, for February 1 – May 31, 2023 conference participation or supplementary funds
- **May 1, 2023**, for June 1 – August 31, 2023 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

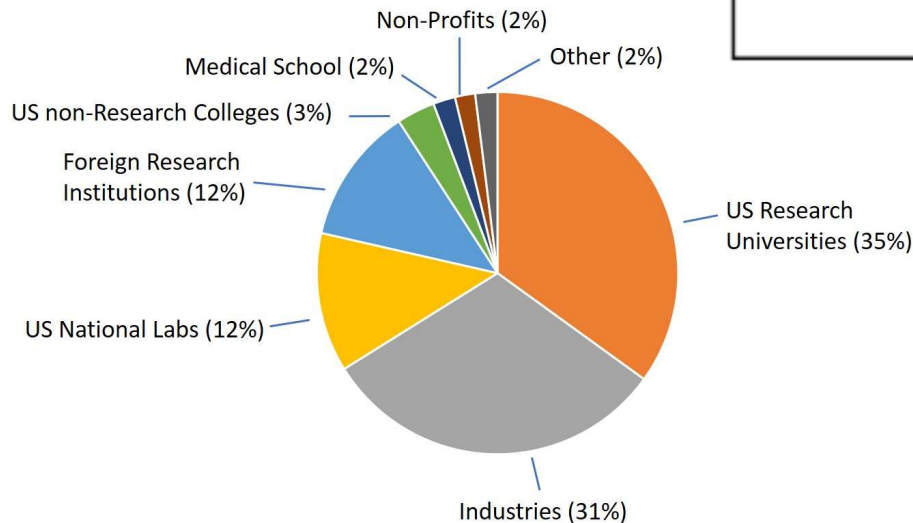




# Illinois Physics PhD Job placement

- We maintain a database of our past ~590 PhD alumni for the past 17 years

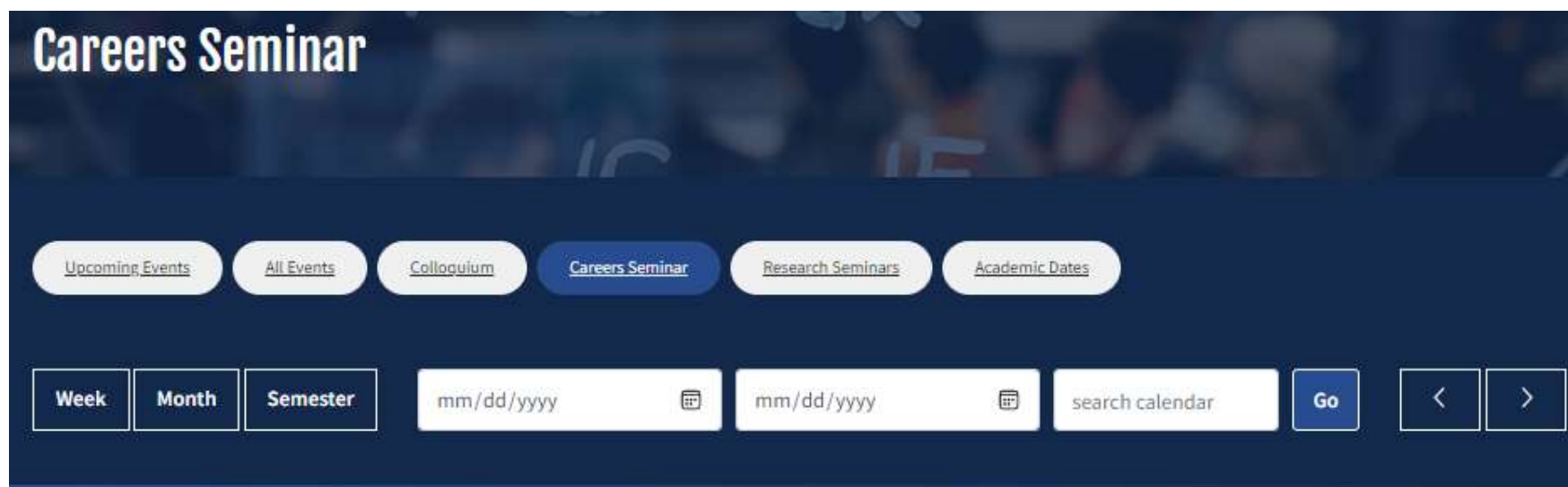
Total # UIUC Physics PhD Graduates, 2005 - 2021	590
# UIUC Physics Grads Placed at Graduation, 2005 - 2021	557 (94%)
Postdoc	309 (55%)
US Research Universities	194 (35%)
Industry	173 (31%)
non-US Research Institutions	69 (12%)
US National Laboratories	68 (12%)
Non-Research Universities or Colleges	19 (3.4%)
Medical Schools	11 (2.0%)
Non-Profits	10 (1.8%)
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 2022. I'll circulate a Zoom link to the grad students prior to the seminar. Current schedule (in progress):



The screenshot shows the 'Careers Seminar' section of the website. It features a navigation bar with tabs for 'Upcoming Events', 'All Events', 'Colloquium', 'Careers Seminar' (which is highlighted), 'Research Seminars', and 'Academic Dates'. Below the navigation bar, there are buttons for 'Week', 'Month', and 'Semester' views. To the right of these are two date input fields labeled 'mm/dd/yyyy' with calendar icons, a 'search calendar' input field, a 'Go' button, and navigation arrows for previous and next views.

## Fall 2022

<p>Physics Careers Seminar</p> <p>Dr. Will Morong, Postdoctoral Fellow, Joint Quantum Institute, College Park, Maryland</p> <p>Friday, Sep 2, 2022 12:00 PM</p>	<p>Physics Careers Seminar</p> <p>Dr. Yanjing Li, Medical Physicist, Newton-Wellesley Hospital</p> <p>Monday, Sep 26, 2022 12:00 PM</p>	<p>Physics Careers Seminar</p> <p>Dr. Souvik Dutta, Senior Machine Learning Scientist, Veritas Technologies</p> <p>Friday, Oct 21, 2022 12:00 PM</p>
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# Other Departmental Seminars

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

Departmental seminars  
will likely be a mix of  
virtual + in-person  
seminars in Fall 2022



The screenshot shows the 'Research Seminars' section of the department's calendar. It features a navigation bar with tabs for 'Upcoming Events', 'All Events', 'Colloquium', 'Careers Seminar', 'Research Seminars' (which is selected), and 'Academic Dates'. Below the tabs are filters for 'Week', 'Month', and 'Semester', along with date pickers for start and end dates, a search bar, and navigation arrows.

Seminar	Day of Week	Time
<a href="#">Institute for Condensed Matter Theory Seminar</a>	Mondays	12:00 p.m.
<a href="#">Medium &amp; High Energy Physics Seminar</a>	Mondays	1:00 p.m.
<a href="#">Theoretical Biophysics Seminar</a>	Mondays	3:00 p.m.
<a href="#">IQIIST Seminar</a>	Tuesdays	11:00 a.m.
<a href="#">Astronomy Colloquium and Seminars</a>	Tuesdays	3:45 p.m.
<a href="#">Astrophysics, Gravitation, and Cosmology Seminar</a>	Wednesdays	12:00 p.m.
<a href="#">Physics Colloquium</a>	Wednesdays	4:00 p.m.
<a href="#">Mathematical and Theoretical Physics Seminar</a>	Thursdays	1:00 p.m.
<a href="#">High Energy Phenomenology Seminar</a>	Fridays	12:00 p.m.
<a href="#">Condensed Matter Physics Seminar</a>	Fridays	1:00 p.m.
<a href="#">Biological Physics Seminar</a>	Fridays	2:00 p.m.

# Advice: Get to know your interesting classmates!

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## Portrait of the Fall 2022 Illinois Physics Graduate Class:

- 43 students in the Fall 2022 grad class
- 29 Men, 14 Women
- 16 International students, 27 Domestic students
- **Citizenship:** US (28), India (6), China (3), Brazil, Canada, Ecuador, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Turkey
- **Schools:** Indiana U (3), UIUC (3), Boston U (2), Harvey Mudd Coll (2), UC-Berkeley (2), Cal State U-Fullerton, Colgate U, Cornell U, Federal Fluminense U, Florida State U, George Mason U, Georgia Tech, Indian Inst Sci Edu Research, Indian Inst Tec Bombay, McGill U, National U Singapore, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ohio Northern U, Penn State U, Rutgers U, Shanghai Tech U, Temple U, U Auto Coahuila, UC-Irvine, UC-San Diego, U Florida, U Lynchburg, UM-DAE Centre, U Minnesota, U North Carolina, U Northern Iowa, U Puerto Rico-Mayaguez, U Rochester, U Wisconsin, Virginia Tech, Yachay Tech



## 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](#)
- [Recommended Physics Courses by Research Area](#)
- [Useful Non-Physics Courses](#)
- [CSE Graduate Concentration](#)
- [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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- [Useful Forms](#)
- [Health/Safety Resources](#)
- [Counseling/Mental Health Resources](#)
- [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="#">McKinlay Health Services</a>	333-2711

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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

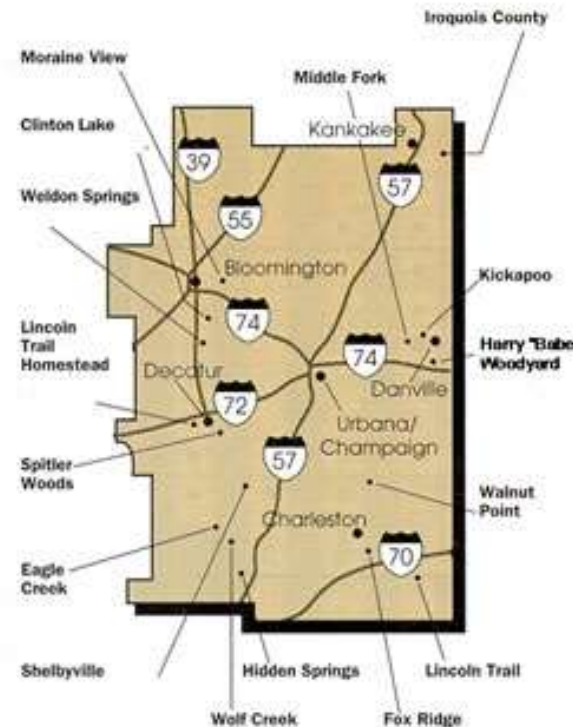
Lake of the Woods (~15 min)



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

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- Annual Micro-aggression Workshop
  - Wednesday, Aug. 17, 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!**

You can miss Grad Academy activities to attend this workshop!



# Other Upcoming Events

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## **Monday and Tuesday, Aug 16, 17: Grad Academy TA and Grader Training**

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

## **Wednesday, Aug 17: Mandatory Microaggressions Workshop**

In-person, 1-2:30 pm in Rm. 222/276 Loomis, required for all 1<sup>st</sup>-year physics grad students

## **Thursday and Friday, Aug 18, 19: Intro Course Orientation Meetings**

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

## **Saturday and Sunday, Aug 20, 21: Qualifying Exam**

Will be held in person, 12:30 – 5:00 pm in 222/276 Loomis. Make sure to register

## **Monday, Aug 22: Fall 2021 Classes Start**

## **Saturday, Sept. 17: Departmental Picnic in Illini Grove**

## Final Piece of Advice

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

