Illinois Physics Graduate Programs Office
Graduate Student Handbook
2022 - 2023

2019 Illinois Physics Graduate Student Association Olympics
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1. Physics Graduate Programs Office Administration

The Physics Graduate Programs Office is located in 227 Loomis Laboratory of Physics. The Associate Head for Graduate Programs, Lance Cooper, leads the Graduate Program Office. Day-to-day operations of the Graduate Programs Office are run by Graduate Program Specialist Nicolette Elam. Guidance on visa and employment issues is provided by Human Resources Specialist Stephanie Swearingen.

Lance Cooper  
Associate Head for Graduate Programs  
Office: 227B Loomis  
Phone: (217) 333-2589  
slcooper@illinois.edu

Nicolette Elam  
Graduate Program Specialist  
Office: 227 Loomis  
Phone: (217) 333-3645  
nelam@illinois.edu

Physics graduate students should contact the Graduate Programs Office for all academic matters, including, but not limited to:

- Applying
- Admissions
- Finding a research advisor
- Teaching assistantships
- Fellowships
- Academic progress
- Registration
- Graduate petitions
- Degree time extensions
- Degree audits
- Scheduling of PhD exams
- Thesis format checks
- I-20 issuance, extensions, or changes
- Optional Practical Training (OPT) or Curricular Practical Training (CPT) (for international students only)
2. Illinois Physics Graduate Program Objectives

Program Objectives and Advising
The overall objective of the Illinois Physics MS and PhD degree programs is to enable our graduate students to pursue successful advanced technical careers in academia, industry, and/or national laboratories by providing them outstanding academic and research training. The specific goals of our program include: (i) providing students a firm foundation in physics, mathematics, and advanced research topics through a variety of advanced course offerings; (ii) offering PhD students opportunities for instruction in teaching methods and scientific communications to ensure that they can be effective instructors and scientific communicators once they graduate; (iii) maintaining a healthy and friendly climate for graduate students to optimize their experience and success at Illinois; (iv) maintaining a diverse graduate student population; and (v) offering career guidance for graduate students, both to educate students about the variety of career paths available to PhD students and to increase their opportunities for postgraduate employment.

Physics graduate students will receive guidance from their academic advisor (generally the Associate Head for Graduate Programs), research advisor, the College of Engineering Graduate Programs Office, and the Graduate College in order to reach their educational goals within a timely fashion. The purpose of the Physics Graduate Student Handbook is to outline Department of Physics policies, procedures, and additional requirements for our graduate students. Students should refer to the College of Engineering Handbook and the Graduate College Handbook for additional policies.

3. Illinois Physics Graduate Admissions Policies

Applying
To be considered for admission into the Illinois Physics PhD program, prospective students must apply to the department, and the Physics Graduate Admissions Committee will review the application. Applications must be submitted by the deadline posted by the Physics department; late and/or incomplete applications are not accepted for any reason. Application requirements are explained on the Applying to Physics website. An application is complete when the department has received all parts of the application, including three letters of recommendation. Application deadlines are posted on the Physics website. Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply in advance of the deadline. Graduate admissions committee decisions are final.

Deferring Admission
Admitted students can defer admission for up to 1 calendar year from the initial proposed term of entry. Physics and/or College of Engineering fellowship offers cannot be deferred for any reason.

Applying From Another Illinois Department (Transferring Departments)
If a graduate student in another department (Urbana-Champaign campus only) has a research advisor within Physics who has agreed to provide a research assistantship of 25% or higher to the student, the student may apply to transfer to Physics via a Graduate College Petition. Submission of a petition is not a guarantee of acceptance into the Physics PhD program. If a graduate student does not have a research assistantship of 25% or higher from a Physics faculty member, s/he must apply as a new applicant to Physics and must follow all application instructions, including posted deadlines. A student who fails to meet the application deadline may apply for the next term.

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1 A 25% appointment is a half-time appointment, for which up to 10 hours of work per week is expected. A 50% appointment is a full-time appointment, for which up to 20 hours of work per week is expected. Both 25% and 50% appointments generate tuition waivers and partial fee waivers.
4. Graduate Degree Requirements and Degree Completion Timelines

Illinois Physics Degree Programs
Degree requirements are posted both in the academic catalog and on the departmental website. The graduate degrees offered include Doctor of Philosophy in Physics; Master of Science in Physics; Master of Science in Teaching Physics

Illinois Physics PhD Program Requirements
Course Credit Hours: The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) Graduate College requires 96 credit hours of coursework for the PhD degree, including credit hours earned for research units obtained in Physics 597 (“Individual Study,” which students take for conducting research with particular advisors prior to passing their preliminary examinations) and Physics 599 (“Thesis Research,” which students take with particular advisors after passing their preliminary examinations). Additionally, to earn a PhD in physics, students must satisfy the following additional requirements.

Qualifying Examination: In addition to completing at least 96 credit hours of coursework, students must pass a qualifying examination (the “qual”) that tests foundational knowledge in four key areas of physics: classical mechanics, electricity and magnetism, quantum mechanics, and statistical physics. This examination is typically taken after the student’s first year at Illinois, and the purpose of this examination is to ensure that our PhD graduates have a solid understanding of the core areas of physics. Incoming graduate students have advising meetings before the start of their first year to identify deficiencies in undergraduate preparation that might require additional undergraduate coursework. Students have two attempts to pass; first-time qualifying exam failures are used to identify weaknesses in the student’s preparation and are typically accompanied by a recommendation that the student take appropriate additional coursework. Review of qualifying exam performance involves a holistic evaluation of each student’s qual score, academic record, and research progress. The overall pass rate on the qualifying exam for the past 15 years or so has been roughly 98%.

Course Requirements: The Department offers an extensive range of undergraduate and graduate-level physics courses, including research-level special topics courses, that students can take. While Physics Illinois PhD students are encouraged to take six graduate level physics courses (Quantum Mechanics I and II (Phys 580, 581), Mathematical Methods A and B (Phys 508, 509), Classical Electromagnetism (Phys 505), and Statistical Physics (Phys 504)), they are required to take only two breadth courses, selected from a group of seven survey courses: Astrophysics (Phys 540), Biomolecular Physics, Condensed Matter Physics (Phys 560), Emergent States of Matter (Phys 563), Modern Atomic Physics (Phys 514), Quantum Optics and Information (Phys 513), and Subatomic Physics (Phys 570). The Associate Head for Graduate Programs also frequently allows an appropriate substitute course to count as a breadth course. These course requirements are typically fulfilled by students prior to taking the preliminary examination, but students need not delay taking their prelim in order to fulfill the breadth course requirement.

Preliminary Examination: Illinois Physics PhD students are required to pass a preliminary examination consisting of an oral presentation and a 15-page research paper describing a proposed research topic. This examination is evaluated by a committee of four or five faculty members—at least two of whom must be faculty in the Department of Physics—and is typically taken in a student’s third or fourth year at Illinois.

Forming a Prelim/Thesis Committee and Scheduling Prelims and Thesis Defenses: The Grad College has instituted a new procedure for scheduling prelims and thesis defenses (described here), which requires students -- rather than the department -- to schedule their prelim and thesis defenses.

In this scheduling process, students use the Grad College Student Portal to schedule prelims and thesis defenses. Students can watch a ~10 minute video to see how to submit prelim and thesis defense
scheduling requests. It’s recommended that students talk with Lance Cooper in the Grad Programs office before submitting prelim and thesis defense scheduling requests.

Once the prelim or thesis defense scheduling request is submitted and approved by the Grad College, the Grad College will send the student, the Grad Office, and the committee members the prelim or thesis defense announcement.

**Thesis Research, Thesis, and Thesis Defense:** To satisfy the requirement for the PhD degree, students are required to conduct research, write a thesis—a comprehensive publication describing their original research results—and present an oral examination describing the thesis work to their thesis committee.

**Other Professional Developmental Requirements for Physics Illinois PhD Students:** The Department of Physics has several other requirements that Illinois Physics PhD students must satisfy:

**Teaching Assistant Instruction:** To provide graduate students basic instruction in teaching methods, the Department holds a required TA training “boot camp” that students must attend the week before the fall semester. The boot camp has mock discussion and lab sections and employs experienced TAs to show best practices for teaching.

**Scientific Communication and Ethics Training:** All new Physics Illinois graduate students are required to take Phys 596 Grad Physics Orientation, which includes basic training in scientific writing and presentation, research collaborations, scientific ethics, and other essential topics. Phys 596 also exposes first year students to research opportunities in the department. Guidance on fellowships and scientific communications is offered by Director of External Affairs and Special Projects Celia Elliott. A list of resources for the Responsible Conduct of Research is also maintained via the Ethics Resources link on the Physics Grad Student Blog.

**Milestones and Schedule for Making Progress in the Illinois Physics PhD Program.**

The following table lists the significant steps that students are expected to complete during their PhD program under normal circumstances. A time schedule is also included so that students can assess their rate of progress in the program. The time limits ensure that students do not take an unnecessarily long time to complete their degree. The Physics Grad Program Office recognizes that there are special circumstances—including teaching obligations, unexpected research and health-related delays—that may cause students to need additional time. “Normal Progress” applies to students on consistent fellowships or research assistantships. Students requiring time extensions because of unexpected delays should consult with the Associate Head for Grad Programs and may require a petition process.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestone</th>
<th>Normal Progress</th>
<th>Max for Satisfactory Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Select a Research Advisor</td>
<td>End of 1st Semester</td>
<td>End of 2nd Semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Qualifying Exam</strong></td>
<td>Beginning of 3rd Semester</td>
<td><strong>Beginning of 5th Semester</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete Breadth Courses and Other Essential Coursework</td>
<td>4th Semester</td>
<td>6th Semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Preliminary Exam</strong></td>
<td>6th Semester</td>
<td><strong>8th Semester</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>10th – 12th Semester</td>
<td>7 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thesis Deposit</strong></td>
<td>10th – 12th Semester</td>
<td>7 Years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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1 This limit is strictly enforced by the department. Students are expected to pass the Qualifying Examination within four semesters (2 years) of enrolling in the PhD program under normal circumstances.

2 Physics PhD students are required to take their preliminary exams after 4 semesters of research with a
For students enrolling in Fall 2021 and later, the Graduate College will put on academic probation students who don’t pass their preliminary exams by the end of their 5th year. See the Graduate College Handbook (Section 6.2, pgs. 39-40) for details.

Starting with students enrolling in Fall 2021, Graduate College will put on academic probation students who don’t satisfy all their PhD requirements by their 7th year. See the Graduate College Handbook (Section 6.2, pgs. 39-40) for details. Students making adequate progress can petition for a time extension.

MS Degree in Physics Requirements
The Graduate College requires 32 hours of satisfactory course work (minimum GPA 2.75/4.00) for the Master of Science degree. All 32 hours must involve 400- or 500-level courses, and 12 of the 32 hours must involve 500-level courses. Additionally, the Dept. of Physics requires that 16 of the 32 hours must be Physics courses, and 8 of these 16 courses must involve 500-level Physics courses. At most 8 hours of "Individual Study" (Physics 597 or Physics 599) may be counted toward the MS degree. A thesis is NOT required for an M.S. degree in Physics, and there is no special oral or written examination required for the M.S. in Physics degree.

Time to Degree: Most physics students take 9-12 hours per semester plus 4 to 8 hours in the summer, so the credit requirement for the M.S. in Physics degree can usually be fulfilled in approximately 1.5 - 2 years. Once the degree requirements are satisfied, to receive the MS in Physics degree, students need to fill out a petition to have the MS curriculum added to their record that must be approved by the advisor and the Associate Head for Graduate Programs.

5. Physics Graduate Program Advising
Academic and Research Advising
The graduate student-advisor relationships are vital to a student’s successful completion of Physics MS and PhD programs. The Associate Head for Graduate Programs is by default the academic advisor of all MS and PhD students in Physics. Research advisors are chosen by mutual agreement between the student and faculty member. Students can begin looking for a research advisor immediately after receiving an offer of admission from the department or anytime thereafter. Applicants are advised not to contact faculty until an offer of admission has been received from the department.

Many MS and PhD students secure a research advisor during the first semester on campus. MS and PhD students are required to secure a research advisor by the end of the first academic year. Choosing a research advisor is one of the most critical and impactful decisions students must make in a graduate program. The advisor-student relationship is fundamental to the success of both the student and advisor. The research advisor has great influence not only on the research direction, but also on promoting the career of the student. In most cases, the student-advisor relationship is one that will last a lifetime. It is important to for each student to find a research advisor who matches his or her own research interests, work style, career goals, and even personality. Some students may find a research advisor within the first few weeks while other students may carefully explore and evaluate many options over the first year.

Effective mentoring guidelines for graduate students, faculty research advisors, and the Graduate Programs Office are described in Section 17.

Finding a Research Advisor
MS and PhD students who do not have a research advisor should contact faculty to inquire about joining a research group. It is the student’s responsibility to find a research advisor with the help of the Associate Head for Graduate Programs. Research presentations by faculty interested in taking on research students will be given as part of the Graduate Physics Orientation Course, Physics 596, which is offered each fall term and is required of all incoming physics graduate students.
Advisors from Outside Physics
Physics graduate students can have research advisors who are faculty members of other departments, provided that the student’s thesis topic is sufficiently physics related (as ultimately determined by the student’s thesis committee; a discussion with the Associate Head about the proposed thesis topic is recommended prior to the prelim exam). If a student takes as a research advisor a faculty member in another department, an informal co-advisor from within Physics is recommended.

Notifying the Graduate Programs Office of Advisor Status
When a mutual agreement has been made, students (including new students) should notify the Graduate Programs Office. It is important for students to notify the Graduate Programs Office of a research advising arrangement because many functions (e.g., annual reviews and teaching assistantships) require that the student-advisor relationship be up-to-date in the student’s graduate record.

Annual Graduate Student Review Process
An annual academic review of all graduate students is required by the Graduate College and is conducted after the end of the Spring semester each year. The review involves the following online 3-step process:

1. The Associate Head for Graduate Programs conducts student evaluations of student progress in the program that are viewed by the students.
2. After receiving the Associate Head’s evaluations, students conduct required self-evaluations.
3. Faculty research advisors review student self-evaluations and submit separate evaluations.

When the graduate advising portal on My.Physics is open, the Graduate Programs Office will notify the students and include the deadline for students to submit their portion. Failure to submit the student self-evaluation by the announced deadline (usually August 15) will result in an advising hold that will prevent the student from registering or changing classes until the self-evaluation is completed.

6. Graduate Student Registration Requirements
Students register for courses online through the Illinois Course Explorer and should do so prior to the first day of classes for the semester. The Office of the Registrar posts the academic calendar and deadlines online. The student Net ID is required for registration. Follow the Graduate College Quick Guide for instructions on setting up the student Net ID and password. Students can register prior to arriving on campus. Additional information regarding registration can be found in the Registration Requirements section of this Handbook. Contact the Graduate Programs Office for questions regarding registration.

Full-Time Registration Credit Hour Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding type</th>
<th>Minimum credit hours per semester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research assistantship, teaching assistantship</td>
<td>9 credit hours per semester¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fellowship/Scholarship</td>
<td>12 credit hours per semester</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The maximum course load per semester is 20 credit hours – taking more than 20 credit hours in a semester requires the approval of a petition for overload registration.

Full-Time Registration Deadline: For both the Fall and Spring terms, Physics graduate students must register for courses by the 10th day of classes. Failure to register full-time (i.e., carry at least 9 credit hours for research and teaching assistants and at least 12 credit hours for fellowship students) may result in late fees, loss of valid visa status for international students, loss of assistantship, and unapproved leave of absence. All Physics graduate students, except those on an approved leave of absence, must register for

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¹ According to the Grainger College of Engineering, as of Fall 2021
both the Fall and Spring terms until they graduate. Students on an approved internship must register for 0 credit hours of Thesis Research for that semester.

**Full-Time Registration for International Students:** It is particularly important for all international students to be registered full-time no later than 10 calendar days into each semester. At 12 PM CST on the 11th calendar day of each semester, ISSS is obligated by law to terminate the F-1 or J-1 immigration status for students who are not registered full-time. Students on assistantships that generate a tuition waiver must register by the 10th calendar day of the term or risk losing the assistantship and tuition waiver.

**Late Registration**
Late registration begins at 5 PM CST on the first day of classes. Students who are not registered at that time have approximately 2 weeks to complete registration. After the late registration period, students lose the ability to register themselves and must use the [Late Registration Form](#). The student’s advisor and the Graduate Programs Office must approve this form prior to final approval by the Graduate College.

**Summer Registration**
Summer is not a mandatory registration term for most students, with the following exceptions: 1) students who are on a fellowship that is paid over the summer must register for at least 6 credit hours, 2) international students must register if it’s their first or last semester, and 3) students taking their preliminary exams or thesis defenses must register. In these cases, thesis-track MS and PhD students may register for 0 credit hours of Physics 599. Non-thesis-track MS students can register for their last course.

**Important Note:** Students who don’t register over the summer are not automatically covered by health insurance and are ineligible to access the McKinley Health Center, the Activities and Recreation Center, and the free bus pass. Students can (i) purchase an extension of their spring health insurance via the following link, [https://app.grad.illinois.edu/healthins/](https://app.grad.illinois.edu/healthins/); and (ii) can “buy back” campus services by paying the Health Service Fee, the Student Initiated Fee, and the Transportation Fee. Students who register over the summer for a minimum of 3 hours will automatically be covered by health insurance and have access to campus services. Additionally, students who don’t register over the summer are subject to additional taxes (i.e., Social Security and Medicare) by the federal government.

**Adding/Dropping Courses**
After the 10th day of classes, registration changes must be made by submitting a [Late Registration Form](#). Students must obtain approval from the instructor, advisor, and Graduate Programs Office prior to submitting the form to the Graduate College.

**Transfer Credit Policies**
Students can transfer a total of 12 credit hours from an outside institution. Additional requirements apply for transferring courses.

- The student must have completed at least 8 credit hours of graduate credit at Illinois before transferring credit.
- Transferred courses must have been taken within the past 5 years at an accredited institution.
- The course must be a graduate-level course at that institution.
- The course cannot apply to another degree, and the petition must include verification from the other institution that the course(s) was (were) not used toward a degree.
- The student must have received a grade of B or higher.
- The petition must include an original, official transcript unless it is already on file.
- A copy of the course syllabus for each petitioned course must be provided.
The transfer petition must receive both departmen
tal and Graduate College approval.
Assignments, quizzes, and/or tests from the course may be requested.
In documenting the petitioned course, please be sure to list comparable courses at Illinois (Urbana-Champaign campus only).

Because of the time-consuming nature of credit transfers, it is strongly recommended that students who are considering transferring credit contact the Graduate Programs Office to confirm the specific requirements based on the details of the student’s request.

7. Research Assistant (RA) and Teaching Assistant (TA) Appointments

MS and PhD students in Physics are generally funded as research assistants (RA) or teaching assistants (TA), with fellowships, or through a combination of these sources. The standard RA and TA appointment is a 50% appointment. Domestic graduate students can accept appointments up to 67%, while international students are limited by their visa status to 50% appointments during the academic year. RA and TA appointments less than 50% are possible. Additional information can be found in the College of Engineering Graduate Student Handbook as well as in the Graduate College Handbook. Continued funding of students requires that students make satisfactory academic and research progress. Continued TA funding also requires that students perform satisfactorily as teaching assistants.

Students on assistantships or fellowships are paid on the 16th of each month. If the 16th falls on a weekend, students will receive payment on the Friday before the 16th.

Waiver-generating Appointments

All teaching and research assistant appointments from 25% - 67% include tuition-waivers and partial fee waivers. Most waiver-generating appointments include coverage of the service fee, health service fee, AFMFA fee, and the Library/Technology fee. The University pays for 87% of the health insurance fee and pays 100% of the University vision insurance and dental insurance fees. Please see Graduate College Handbook (see page 54 of Section 7.4 under “Fee waivers”) to estimate the fees you will be charged each semester.

Accepting RA and TA Appointments

Graduate students who are awarded a research or teaching assistantship must electronically accept their appointments each semester to finalize their appointment prior to the appointment start date – August 16 for the Fall term and January 1 for the Spring term. Students who fail to complete this process by these dates each semester will delay their appointment start dates, which will result in reduced pay.

The acceptance of an appointment requires students to be present and available to their supervisor during the appointment dates – August 16 to December 31 for the Fall term and January 1 to May 15 for the Spring term. If students must be away from their responsibilities, they must receive prior approval from their supervisor and the Graduate Programs Office. Failure to be present may result in the termination or non-reappointment of an assistantship. Students should schedule vacations for time periods during which the University is closed for a holiday or for after the appointment dates. For more information regarding the Graduate College and University guidelines on graduate assistantships, see the Graduate College Handbook and Academic Human Resources.

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1A 50% appointment is a full-time appointment, for which up to 20 hours of work per week is expected. A 25% appointment is a half-time appointment, for which up to 10 hours of work per week is expected. Appointments between 25% and 67% generate tuition waivers and partial fee waivers.
For International Students Only: Social Security numbers are issued only to students who are employed on campus. This includes students who hold an assistantship or hourly appointment. Prior to securing a Social Security Number (SSN), the University issues a Temporary Control Number (TCN), which will be needed to process the assistantship or graduate hourly appointment. Students on a fellowship will need the TCN number (but not an SSN) to process their paperwork. The TCN number is available at the ID Production Office at the Illini Union Bookstore. If this number was not issued when receiving the i-Card, please return to that office and request it.

Resigning RA and TA Appointments
If you work until the end of your appointment period (e.g., December 31, May 15, or the end of a summer appointment), no formal resignation of your appointment is needed. Students with assistantship appointments (RA, TA, GA, PPGA) are eligible to hold their assistantships through the end of the semester in which they deposit if the end date of the appointment, when offered and accepted, was the same or later than the deposit date. For example, a student with a spring appointment processed to end May 15 may hold the assistantship through May 15, even if the student deposited the thesis anytime between January 1 and May 15.

Students are not obligated to continue their assistantships, and students may resign their appointments using the departmental resignation form. Important note: if a student resigns their appointment before working for at least three-fourths of the term (91 days during the fall and spring terms; 41 days during summer term; a term is defined as the period starting on the first day of classes and ending on the last day of final examinations), that student will lose their tuition waiver and will be assessed tuition and fees. There is an exception to this policy: campus policy permits students to resign their assistantships anytime during the term—and still retain their waivers—if they complete all degree requirements for graduation by depositing their thesis within seven calendar days of resigning their appointment.

TA Applications
The Graduate Programs Office accepts TA applications each semester: in October (for Spring semester positions), in April (for Summer term positions), and in July (for Fall semester positions). Students will be emailed and a notification will be posted on the Physics Grad Student Blog when the application system is available for TA applications. Applications may not be accepted after the deadline.

In making TA appointments and course assignments, prior performance as a TA and ICES scores are considered. All applicants must also meet English language requirements, explained in the Requirements for Non-Native English-Speaking TAs section below.

TA Orientation Program
All new teaching assistants are required to attend the Graduate Academy for College Teaching pre-semester orientation program(s) that are given each semester. A copy of the agenda, including dates and times, and a brief description of the activities are provided to all teaching assistants when TA assignments are made. Attendance at this orientation is required as a condition of the assistantship appointment.

Physics Departmental TA Training
New TA appointees in Physics must participate in the TA training “bootcamp” conducted during incoming graduate student Orientation Day.
Requirements for Non-Native English-Speaking TAs
All non-native English-speaking graduate students, regardless of citizenship, who wish to be employed as TAs at the University of Illinois must first satisfy the English language requirement for TAs set by the State of Illinois. Non-native English speakers must achieve a minimum score of 24 on the speaking portion of the TOEFL or a minimum score of 8.0 on the speaking portion of the IELTS. Students can also fulfill this requirement with a passing score on the English Proficiency Interview (EPI), which is the on-campus assessment through the Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning (CITL). Students can sign up for the EPI once they are enrolled as a graduate student and located on campus. Sign up information is emailed to students when exam dates have been posted by CITL. No exceptions are made to the English requirements; this policy is required by the State of Illinois. Please note that a qualifying speaking score on the TOEFL or IELTS does not guarantee an automatic award of a TA.

8. New Student Orientation and Check-In Procedures
Orientation Session
Physics hosts an annual orientation session for admitted and enrolling graduate students at the start of the fall semester. The Graduate Program Office will notify students of the session via email. The MS/PhD new graduate student orientation is separated into two parts: 1) administrative details (e.g., registering for classes, getting started on campus) and 2) the teaching assistant training session.

Other units on campus also provide helpful orientation information through presentations and/or online resources. A few of these units are the College of Engineering Graduate and Professional Programs Office, the Graduate College, and the Office of International Student and Scholar Services. New students should also review the New Student Info and Checklist on the Physics Grad Student Blog.

International Students
- Upon arrival, all international students should check in at the Office of International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS), located in Room 400 Student Services Building, 610 E. John St., Champaign. Additional information can be found at http://isss.illinois.edu. Frequently Asked Questions for International Students can be found at https://isss.illinois.edu/updates/coronavirus.html
- Students who have a departmental financial aid offer should apply for a Social Security Number immediately after arrival on campus. Students will be given instructions for how to apply for a social security number during check-in with ISSS.

Research Assistants (RA) and Teaching Assistants (TA)
- Students appointed at RAs or TAs must complete check-in in person with the Physics Graduate Programs Office before the first day of the appointment in order to fill out the required I-9 Employment Eligibility Form. Check-in for an appointment cannot be completed remotely.
- International student employees should bring:
  - Passport
  - I-94 document
  - I-20 (for F1) or DS-2019 and Letter of Employment Authorization (for J1)
  - i-Card. Students should try to obtain their i-Cards before visiting the Physics Graduate Programs Office. Each student is issued a permanent photo identification
card that must be retained by the student while registered at the University. The i-Card office is located on the first floor of the Illini Union Bookstore, 809 S. Wright Street (corner of Wright and John Streets). More i-Card information can be found at http://www.icard.uillinois.edu.

- Domestic student employees should review the I-9 website: Form I-9 Acceptable Documents | USCIS for the list of acceptable documentation. Under federal law, students may not begin working until the I-9 form has been completed. This must be done on or before the start date of an appointment (August 16 for Fall entrants) to receive full pay. Failure to complete these steps may result in a reduction of salary and could possibly affect tuition waiver benefits generated by the appointment.

- Other required forms will be completed online in the University of Illinois System Human Resource Services New Hire program. Students will receive an email with further instructions after their information has been entered into the payroll system. Students are encouraged to submit all required forms as soon as possible to ensure that their appointment is finalized promptly.

Fellowship Award Holders

- Fellowship holders must sign a Notification of Appointment (NOA) form and return it to the Graduate College Fellowship Office in Coble Hall. Students who have not received an NOA for their fellowship awards should contact the Graduate Programs Office.

- Fellowship holders must contact the University Payroll Office, Room 100A Henry Administration Building, to complete a Tax Status Review/ITIN appointment.

- Other required forms will be completed online in the University of Illinois System Human Resource Services New Hire program. Students will receive an email with further instructions after their information has been entered into the payroll system. Students are encouraged to submit all required forms as soon as possible to ensure that their appointment is finalized promptly.

9. Important Academic Procedures for Physics Graduate Students

Petitions (Graduate Student Requests)
The Graduate Student Request Form (petition) is used to request any changes to a student record or program. Examples of requests that would require a petition include curriculum changes, adding/dropping a minor or concentration, transferring credit, etc. Petitions are reviewed by the Graduate Programs Committee.

Transferring from Physics to Another Department within the Graduate College
Students can request to transfer to another department’s program via a Graduate Student Request Form. Students are encouraged to talk to both their advisor and the proposed department prior to submitting the request to transfer. The proposed department may have additional procedures and requirements that must be completed.

Taking Courses for Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)
Credit/no credit is a permanent notation on the academic record that may be requested by a student with the advisor’s approval. Neither core physics courses nor breadth courses should be taken
Credit/No Credit. No more than one course per semester may be taken as Credit/No Credit. Once a course is taken as Credit/No Credit, it cannot be retaken at a later date for a grade. Therefore, any course for which a student wants to obtain a grade should not be taken as Credit/No Credit. Students are advised not to select Credit/No Credit for courses significant to their research/focus of study. Additional details can be found in the Graduate College Handbook. The timeline for changing a course to Credit/No Credit is set by the Graduate College and is listed on the Graduate College Academic Calendar.

Auditing
An auditor is a listener in the classes attended; s/he may not participate in any part of the exercises. An audited course will appear on the student’s transcript with a grade of AU and does not count toward the GPA or degree requirements. Once a course is taken as an audit, it cannot be retaken at a later date for a grade. Therefore, any course for which a student wants to obtain a grade should not be audited. Students are advised not to audit courses significant to their research/focus of study. The deadline for submitting the Auditor’s Permit to the Graduate College is the 10th day of instruction in the Fall and Spring terms. See the Graduate College Academic Calendar for Summer term deadlines.

In absentia Registration
In absentia is a registration type designed for students who wish or need to remain registered but who plan to study or do research for at least one semester 50 miles or more away from campus. Students may register in absentia for any number of credit hours. There is no decrease in tuition rates when a student is registered in absentia, and tuition assessment will be based on the student’s college and curriculum of enrollment, residency status, and the number of credit hours for which the student is registered.

In absentia registration recognizes that such students do not access the full range of campus services and resources while away. Consequently, students registered in absentia are assessed only the general fee. Payment of the general fee provides students with access to their University e-mail and access to library services. Because in absentia students are not assessed other fees, they are not eligible for services associated with those fees. For example, if students registered in absentia wish to have health insurance, they must make alternative arrangements. For a list of services each fee includes and amount of each fee, refer to the Office of the Registrar.

A student must submit an in absentia Registration Form to Graduate Student Academic Services (GSAS) to request in absentia registration. An approved request allows a student to register in absentia, but the student must complete the registration using the UI Self-Service system.

In absentia registration is typically used when a student has completed all requirements except for completion of the final exam and thesis deposit.

Withdrawing
Students should consult with their advisor and the Associate Head for Graduate Programs prior to completing this process. The Graduate Programs Office, in cooperation with the student’s advisor, must formally approve withdrawal from the University. The Banner application system will not allow students to drop all courses because this constitutes a withdrawal. Students must complete the Withdrawal Form. International students must have formal approval from the Office of International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) to withdraw.
Medical Withdrawal
Students who are considering a medical withdrawal from the university should consult with the Associate Head for Graduate Programs and read the eligibility requirements and other information on the UIUC Medical Withdrawal website. Requesting a medical withdrawal requires completion of an online request form and an academic information form.

Academic Leave and Re-entry Process
Students who wish to take a leave of absence from the program must submit a request using the Academic Leave of Absence Form. Additional information about taking an Academic Leave of Absence can be found in the Graduate College Handbook in Section 2.5 on pages 20-21. A student who takes a leave of absence without approval from the Graduate Programs Office will be required to reapply if s/he requests to return.

10. Thesis Deposit, Exit Interview, and Graduation
Thesis Preparation and Submission
Students are required to submit an electronic copy of the thesis/dissertation to the Physics Graduate Program Supervisor prior to the Graduate College deposit deadline. Graduate College deadlines can be found on the Graduate School Academic Calendar. An email from the Graduate Programs Office is sent to students each semester outlining the Physics-specific dates and deadlines for degree certification and thesis submission.

Thesis Deposit Process and Post-Deposit Information
Once students successfully pass their thesis defense, they should make any changes to the thesis (e.g., typo corrections, etc.) suggested by their committee, then first submit the thesis to the Physics Grad Office for the departmental review.

Once the departmental thesis review is completed, the student’s Dissertation Approval Form will be submitted to the Grad College and the student can submit their thesis to the Grad College. Information about submitting the final thesis to the Grad College can be found here.

After the thesis has been successfully deposited to the Grad College, the student can request a degree certification letter from the Grad College. Post-deposit information can be found here.

Exit Interview Process
PhD students should complete an Exit Interview with the Physics Associate Head for Graduate Programs once the final exam is completed. To schedule the Exit Interview, please contact the staff in Room 227 Loomis.

Graduation Process & Commencement
Students who are ready for degree conferral must place their names on the degree conferral list using the UI Integrate Self-Service before the deadline for that term. This alerts the Graduate Programs Office and the Graduate College that the student plans to graduate within that semester. Students who do not complete this step by the deadline must wait until the next semester to graduate.

All graduate students are invited to participate in the College of Engineering and the University Commencements upon degree completion. It is important that students sign up to participate before the deadlines. To learn more, please see College of Engineering Commencement Information and Campus-wide Commencement Information.
11. Useful Information for Physics Graduate Students

**Business Office:** The departmental Business Office is located in 203 Loomis and is headed by the Assistant Head for Administration, Jennifer Jorstad. Purchase orders and other business office questions can be directed to Cheryl Sabas in 203 Loomis.

**Code of Conduct Policy:** The Department of Physics and the College of Engineering require all students to act in a professional manner, in all written and verbal communications, with any faculty, staff, students, outside vendors, or research partners. Harassment of any kind is prohibited. No messages with derogatory or inflammatory remarks about an individual or group’s race, religion, national origin, physical attributes, or sexual preferences are permitted. In addition, students are held accountable to the **University of Illinois’ Code of Student Conduct**. Violations of these policies may result in disciplinary action, which may include dismissal from the University.

**Deadlines:** Students should note the academic deadlines for each semester. Students are responsible for knowing and adhering to all academic deadlines, which are posted online at [https://illinois.edu/calendar/list/557](https://illinois.edu/calendar/list/557). Important deadlines are also often posted on the Physics Grad Student Blog.

**Diversity Policy:** The Department of Physics is committed to actively promoting equity and inclusion of all members of our department and campus community. A statement of the University’s policy against discrimination and harassment and a list of diversity related resources can be found here: [https://physics.illinois.edu/academics/graduates/diversity-resources](https://physics.illinois.edu/academics/graduates/diversity-resources).

**Facilities Issues:** Office and other facilities issues can be directed to Facilities Manager, Luke Prunkard, in 203 Loomis.

**Final Transcripts and Certifications of Degree(s):** Please mail or hand deliver your final, **sealed** credentials to the Graduate College upon arrival (outlined in your official admission letter from the Graduate College) or have your prior institution(s) mail final, sealed credentials directly to the Graduate College. The Graduate College is located in Room 204 Coble Hall, 801 S. Wright St., Champaign.

**Grad Student Departmental Awards and Fellowships:** A list of awards and fellowships for which Illinois Physics graduate students are eligible are listed on the departmental website here: [Graduate Awards | Physics | UIUC (illinois.edu)](https://physics.illinois.edu/academics/graduates/diversity-resources). These competitive graduate awards and fellowships are based on nominations by faculty in February and March of each year and are selected by a faculty panel. Grad student departmental award and fellowship recipients are announced in April each year. Additionally, the **Excellence in Outreach, Service, and Diversity Awards** for physics graduate students are based on nominations by physics grad students and are awarded during the fall semester each year. Awardees are selected by a physics graduate student committee.

**Grievance Policy and Procedural Appeals:** The faculty, staff, and students within the College of Engineering departments are a diverse group, and sometimes conflicts may arise. Most conflicts can be resolved informally between the two parties. However, there may be times that conflicts cannot be resolved informally. In these cases, students may file a formal grievance with the Associate Head for Graduate Studies or may file one directly with the Graduate College. Consult the **Graduate College Handbook** (see Chapter 9 on page 64) for more information.

**Health Forms:** Submit health forms (by mail or in person upon arrival) to the McKinley Health Center, 1109 S. Lincoln Avenue, Urbana. More information about required health forms may be found at
Health Insurance and Health Resources: Information about Student Health Insurance and other Health/Safety resources can be found on the Physics Grad Student Blog here: Health/Safety Resources | Physics | UIUC (illinois.edu). A summary of student health insurance benefits can be found on the brochure here: https://ws.engr.illinois.edu/sitemanager/getfile.asp?id=4161.

Helium Liquifier Facility: The helium liquefier facility is located in 171 Loomis. Questions regarding this facility can be directed to Kelly Sturdyvin.

i-Card: Each student is issued a permanent photo identification card that must be retained by the student as long as s/he is registered at the University. The i-Card office is located on the first floor of the Illini Union Bookstore, 809 S. Wright Street (corner of Wright and John Streets). More i-Card information can be found at: http://www.icard.uillinois.edu.

Lactation Room: The Department of Physics has a Lactation Room in 281A Loomis. Please come to the Physics Grad Office (227 Loomis) for the key to the room.

Lost and Found: The departmental Lost and Found office is 203 Loomis. See Cheryl Sabas for Lost and Found Questions.

Mailboxes: MS and PhD students will receive a physical mailbox on the second floor of Loomis. Students should check their mailboxes regularly for important documents.

My.Physics Portal: Illinois Physics graduate students have access to the My.Physics Portal, which will provide students access to a variety of services and applications for completing annual self-evaluations and teaching preference selections, requesting cryogenics and room keys, and accessing the graduate student expertise database. The Director of Information Management, Rebecca Wiltfong, has created a useful presentation on the applications available via the My.Physics Portal.

Physics Careers Seminar and Placement Database: To provide physics graduate students with career guidance, the Graduate Programs Office runs a Physics Careers Seminar Series, in which PhD alumni in various careers are invited to offer Physics Illinois graduate students advice on the different career paths possible for physics PhDs. The Graduate Programs Office also maintains an extensive placement database of PhD alumni—a summary of which is made available to current PhD students—which enables current graduate students to identify promising job opportunities and network with alumni.

Physics Grad Student Blog: Important notices to graduate students regarding events, jobs, fellowships, teaching assistantships, research assistantships, etc., are posted on the Physics Grad Student Blog. In general, we do not send individual notices by email, so check the Physics Grad Student Blog frequently!

Physics Grad Travel Award Program: The purpose of the Department of Physics Graduate Student Travel Award Fund is to provide opportunities for graduate students to attend special conferences or workshops, to participate in professional development activities that are not funded by their advisors' research grants, or to supplement student funding for unanticipated medical, financial, or educational expenses. Travel Awards will typically be limited to a maximum of $500, although higher amounts are possible in special circumstances. The Physics Grad Travel Award program is divided into three time periods each year, with deadlines on September 1, February 1, and May 1 of each academic year. Applications are generally not accepted for post-travel reimbursement, and the application should ideally be received at least 30 days before the requested travel commences.
Physics Graduate Student Lounge: The Physics Graduate Student Lounge is located on the second floor on the southeast corner of the building, in Rm. 204D. Contact the Grad Office (227 Loomis) for questions or concerns about the grad lounge.

Physics Graduate Student Social Organizations: Several physics graduate student organizations contribute to the supportive climate at Illinois, including the Physics Graduate Student Association (PGSA), the Illinois-GPS mentoring group for undergraduate physics mentoring, the Illinois-GPM "peer" mentoring group for 1st-year physics graduate students, a Women in Physics and Astronomy group, and the Graduate Student Diversity Committee. All of these groups are interested in attracting new members.

Student Ethics: The Department of Physics, College of Engineering, and campus strictly enforce student ethics and will not tolerate cheating within a course or plagiarism on course-related papers, published papers, or within theses. The College uses Section 1-402 of the Student Code to define cheating and plagiarism. It is the student’s responsibility to read through this section carefully. Students who are accused of such a violation may face some or all of the consequences below:

1. Receive a grade of zero on the assignment or exam.
2. Receive a failing grade for the course.
3. Dismissal from the program.

All academic integrity cases are documented within the student’s departmental file, at the College of Engineering, and at the Graduate College. A student who is accused of such a violation has 10 business days to respond to the professor in writing. In the meantime, the professor will alert the student’s home department of the accused violation. If the violation still holds after discussing the accusation with the professor, the student has the right to appeal within 5 days of notification. To learn about how to file an appeal, students should contact the Associate Head for Graduate Programs. If the student does not appeal, the matter will be closed and one or all of the above consequences will be applied. Students who receive penalty 2 or penalty 3 above will not be allowed to drop the course. Students with repeated violations may be dismissed from the program. For more information.

University of Illinois Email Account: It is imperative that all students check their UIUC email daily because it is the main form of communication for faculty, staff, and students. Students are responsible for all communications, policies, and deadlines that are sent to their University email accounts. Please see the Graduate College Quick Guide for instructions on setting up the University of Illinois email account. Graduate students should not forward their University emails to a personal email address.

12. Campus Resources for Physics Graduate Students

College of Engineering Career Services
The College of Engineering Career Services Office (ECS) offers services to help prepare graduate students for the job market. ECS offers assistance with identifying internships, writing resumes, mock interviews, employment searches, and more. To learn about the services that are available, visit the ECS website or the ECS office at Suite 3270, Digital Computer Laboratory (DCL). The University Career Center also holds various events and workshops.

Disability Services and Employee Accommodations and Accessibility
Students who have a medically documented disability can obtain disability-related academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids through the Disability Resource and Educational Services (DRES). Students are responsible for contacting their course instructors and providing them with their DRES
letter to receive academic adjustments. To contact DRES, visit 1207 S. Oak Street in Champaign, call at 217-333-4603, or email disability@illinois.edu. The ADA Division of the Office of Access and Equity can help if you require an accommodation because of a disability, your religion, pregnancy or breastfeeding status.

Graduate College Career Development Services
The Graduate College Career Development Services Office fosters personal growth and professional development for graduate students. This office assists students with exploring careers, applying for jobs and/or faculty positions, interviewing, negotiating offers, and more. To learn more about the services and seminars that are held throughout the year, visit Graduate College Career Development.

Graduate College Fellowships Office
The Graduate College Fellowships Office establishes and implements policies governing the numerous fellowships and traineeships that students hold. In addition, the Fellowships Office helps students locate external funding opportunities, learn how to write grant proposals, and submit competitive applications. Please see Graduate College Fellowships for more information.

Grainger Library and the Physics Collection
The Department of Physics maintains a collection of physics books and journals at the Grainger Library. Electronic access to physics books and journals is also available at https://www.library.illinois.edu/phx/. Questions about library holdings and services can be directed to the Physics and Astronomy Librarian, Mary Schlembach.

Illinois Campus Cluster Computing Resource
The Department of Physics has invested in the Illinois Campus Cluster program and allows anyone associated with the department access when requested. The investment is composed of four 192GB Skylake (Intel Xeon-Gold 6148) nodes (40 core per node) with Infiniband network connection. In addition to the 2 GB of personal storage space you’ll receive, there is also ~60TB of storage space available to use for projects involving big data. Please note, since this resource is available to the entire department storage of data is meant for 6 months or less. Please make plans to store large amounts of data long term. Go to https://campuscluster.illinois.edu/ to request access for this computational resource.

Printers
Graduate students may print within their department or research group. Departmental printers are available in Rm. 390T Loomis for graduate student use. Additionally, College of Engineering graduate students can print at the Grainger Library using either the 4th floor’s central computers or the lower level east side computers, but the student’s account will be charged. Course materials for teaching assistants can be printed in 239 Loomis, and teaching assistants will be given the code to use the printers in 239 for printing course materials.

Technology Services
The Engineering IT Helpdesk is located at 264 Materials Research Laboratory and is open 9 AM -12 PM and 1 PM -5 PM CST Monday through Friday for walk-in questions and assistance requests. You can also email engrit-help@illinois.edu. Computers must be brought to the desk for support.

Engineering IT discourages the use of personally-owned computers for performing University research and/or storing University data. Students should talk with their advisors about computer access within
their research groups. Wired network connections for personal computers are provided only where wireless is not available and on a network that matches IllinoisNet wireless. Network access can be requested by emailing engrit-help@illinois.edu. Students who contact Engineering IT to request network access must include the room, the otherwise unused network jack number, and their advisor’s name. Approval of such a request is not guaranteed.

Additional IT information is provided to students as part of the new grad student orientation. Students should consult the [useful presentation](#) on IT services prepared by Director of Information Management, Rebecca Wiltfong.

**Visa Issues:**
[International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS)](https://iss.sgs.illinois.edu) can provide the most detailed guidance on visa issues for international students. However, some basic guidance on visa issues may be obtained in the Physics Grad Office (227 Loomis) or from Human Resource Specialist Stephanie Swearingen.

**13. Counseling and Mental Health Services**

All University students have access to the Counseling Center. In addition to offering counseling services, the Center offers educational programming initiatives, training programs, outreach and consultation activities, and self-help materials. The staff members have extensive training and experience with assisting graduate students. **Visits with a counselor are confidential and are not shared with the student’s home department or faculty advisor.** To learn more about services, visit [Counseling Center](https://counselingcenter.illinois.edu/counseling) or call 217-333-3704.

A variety of counseling and mental health resources are available on campus and in the community. A list of resources with contact information are included below. Please contact the Associate Head for Graduate Programs if you have questions about these resources.

**UIUC Counseling and Mental Health Resources**

- **McKinley Health Center Mental Health**
  - Website: [https://mckinley.illinois.edu/medical-services/mental-health](https://mckinley.illinois.edu/medical-services/mental-health)
  - Appointments (schedule by phone): (217) 333-2701
  - Emergency: (217) 359-4141

- **Illinois Counseling Center**
  - Website: [https://counselingcenter.illinois.edu/counseling](https://counselingcenter.illinois.edu/counseling)
  - Appointments ([https://counselingcenter.illinois.edu/node/4](https://counselingcenter.illinois.edu/node/4)): (217) 333-3704

- **College of Engineering Weekly DRES Office Hour**
  - Counselor: Rachel Green, DRES
  - Times: Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30 pm (30-minute appointments)
  - Location: 206 Engineering Hall
  - Appointments: To schedule an appointment, contact Kyra Lochelle (lochelle@illinois.edu)

- **Faculty/Staff Assistance Services**
  - Website: [http://humanresources.illinois.edu/fsas/index.html](http://humanresources.illinois.edu/fsas/index.html)
  - Appointments ([http://humanresources.illinois.edu/fsas/services/core-counseling.html](http://humanresources.illinois.edu/fsas/services/core-counseling.html)): (217) 244-5312
**Psychological Services Center**  
Website: [http://psc.illinois.edu/](http://psc.illinois.edu/)  
Phone: (217) 333-0041

**Campus Well-Being Services**  
Website: [http://humanresources.illinois.edu/campus-wellbeing-services/about.html](http://humanresources.illinois.edu/campus-wellbeing-services/about.html)  
Phone (217) 265-9355  
**DRES Mental Health Resources**  
Website: [http://disability.illinois.edu/health/mental-health-resources](http://disability.illinois.edu/health/mental-health-resources)

**Suicide Prevention Team** (Hours: 8 am – 5 pm)  
610 East John St.  
Phone: (217) 333-3704

**Dial-A-Nurse** (24 hours a day, 7 days a week)  
Phone: (217) 333-2700

**CU Community Counseling and Mental Health Resources**

**Community Elements Mental Health Center**  
801 North Walnut Street, Champaign, IL 61820  
Website: [http://rosecrancechampaignurbana.org/](http://rosecrancechampaignurbana.org/)  
Phone: (217) 373-2430

**Find Local Mental Health Providers Covered by Student Insurance**  
Website: [Live and Work Well](http://liveandworkwell.illinois.edu/)

**Compass Counseling and Consulting**  
201 W. Springfield Ave., Champaign  
Website: [Compass Counseling and Consulting](http://compasscounselingconsulting.org/)

**Dr. Jonathan Thomas-Stagg**  
Licensed Clinical Psychologist  
701 Devonshire Dr., Champaign, IL 61820  
Email: drjtstagg@gmail.com  
Phone: 309-657-4904

**24-Hour Emergency/Crisis Resources**

**Pavilion Behavioral Health Hospital** (24 Hour assessments)  
809 West Church Street, Champaign, IL 61820  
Website: [https://www.pavilionhospital.com/](https://www.pavilionhospital.com/)  
Phone: (217) 373-1700

**Carle Foundation Hospital** (Emergency Room)  
611 West Park Street, Urbana, IL 61801  
Website: [https://carle.org/](https://carle.org/)  
Phone: (217) 383-3311

**OSF Heart of Mary Medical Center** (Emergency Room)  
1400 West Park Street, Urbana, IL 61801
**Website:** https://www.osfhealthcare.org/heart-of-mary/
**Phone:** (217) 337-2000

**24-Hour Crisis Line** (24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
**Phone:** (217) 359-4141

**UIUC Police Department**
110 West Springfield Ave, Urbana, IL 61820
**Website:** http://police.illinois.edu/
**Phone:** (217) 333-1216

**National Suicide Prevention Lifeline** (24 hours a day)
**Phone:** 1-800-273-8255

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**14. Safety Resources for Physics Graduate Students**

It is important for students to take sensible precautions and become familiar with their environment to be as safe as possible. The campus and community have a variety of programs to provide a safer place in which you can study, work, and socialize. Campus lighting evaluations and improvements, emergency phones, Student Patrol, self-defense classes, Safe Walks, and MTD SafeRides are just a few examples of resources that are available to enhance your safety. Links to safety resources are included below:

- Safety Tips from UI Police
- Safety Tips for International Students
- SafeWalks and SafeRides
- Campus Map
- Campus Directory
- MTD Bus Maps and Schedules
- MTD Bus Stop Lookup
- MTD Saferides
- MTD How To Ride Videos

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**15. Important Dates for Physics Graduate Students in 2022-2023**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 12, 2022</td>
<td>New Grad Student Orientation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 17</td>
<td>Microaggressions Workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 20 and 21</td>
<td>Physics qualifying exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 22</td>
<td>Fall 2022 classes begin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 2</td>
<td>Deadline for full-time Fall 2022 registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 11</td>
<td>Last day to defend for a December 2022 degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 22</td>
<td>First day to resign TA/RA appointment and not lose waiver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 2</td>
<td>Last day to deposit for a December 2022 degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 7</td>
<td>Fall 2022 classes end</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 19, 2023</td>
<td>Spring 2023 classes begin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 31</td>
<td>Deadline for full-time Spring 2023 registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 7</td>
<td>Last day to defend for a May 2023 degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 20</td>
<td>First day to resign TA/RA appointment and not lose waiver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 21</td>
<td>Last day to deposit for a May 2023 degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>Spring 2023 classes end</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 13</td>
<td>May 2023 degree conferral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>Summer 2023 term begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 25</td>
<td>First day to resign TA/RA appointment and not lose waiver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 29</td>
<td>Last day to defend for an August 2023 degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 14</td>
<td>Last day to deposit for an August 2023 degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 3</td>
<td>Summer 2023 classes end</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

16. **Useful Links for Physics Graduate Students**

- **Physics Graduate Student Blog**: [https://physics.illinois.edu/academics/graduates/blog/](https://physics.illinois.edu/academics/graduates/blog/)
- **Department of Physics**: [https://physics.illinois.edu/](https://physics.illinois.edu/)
- **Courses, Schedules, and Requirements**: [courses.illinois.edu/resources](courses.illinois.edu/resources)
- **Graduate College Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Office**: [grad.illinois.edu/prospective/underrepresented](grad.illinois.edu/prospective/underrepresented)
- **Fellowship Information**: [grad.illinois.edu/fellowships](grad.illinois.edu/fellowships)
- **Financial Assistance**: [grad.illinois.edu/prospective/financial](grad.illinois.edu/prospective/financial)
- **Forms Used for Graduate Students**: [grad.illinois.edu/forms/](grad.illinois.edu/forms/)
- **Graduate College**: [grad.illinois.edu/](grad.illinois.edu/)
- **Graduate College Academic Calendar**: [grad.illinois.edu/general/calendar/current](grad.illinois.edu/general/calendar/current)
- **Graduate College Handbook**: [grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook](grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook)
- **Housing**: [housing.illinois.edu](housing.illinois.edu)
- **International Student and Scholar Services (ISSSS)**: [isss.illinois.edu/](isss.illinois.edu/)
- **Registration Checklist**: [registrar.illinois.edu/registration-checklist](registrar.illinois.edu/registration-checklist)
- **Student Health Insurance**: [http://si.illinois.edu/](http://si.illinois.edu/)
- **Student Rights and Responsibilities**: [studentcode.illinois.edu/](studentcode.illinois.edu/)
17. Important Phone Numbers for Physics Graduate Students

Emergency and Important Numbers

**24-hour Emergency Numbers**

Life-threatening fire, police, or medical emergency
911 (on-campus)
911 (off-campus)

**Emergency Dean** (available 24/7 to assist students or their families in crisis)
1(217) 333-0050

Domestic Violence Hotline (A Woman’s Place)
1(217) 384-4390

Crisis Line (24-hour suicide prevention and crisis hotline)
1(217) 244-7911 or 1(217) 359-4141
1(217) 244-5312

**Faculty/Staff Assistance Program**

**National Capital Poison Center**
1(800) 222-1222

**Non-Emergency Numbers**

**Fire Departments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Champaign</td>
<td>1(217) 403-7200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urbana</td>
<td>1(217) 384-2420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savoy</td>
<td>1(217) 359-5814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Champaign County</td>
<td>1(217) 333-8911</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Police Departments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Illinois</td>
<td>1(217) 333-1216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Champaign</td>
<td>1(217) 351-8911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urbana</td>
<td>1(217) 384-2320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savoy</td>
<td>1(217) 333-8911</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Legal Services**

**Student Legal Services**
1(217) 333-9053

**Hospitals and Medical Services**

**Carle Hospital** Emergency Room
1(217) 383-3313

**OSF Heart of Mary Medical Center** Emergency Room
1(217) 337-2131

**McKinley Health Service**
1(217) 333-2701

McKinley Health Service Dial-a-Nurse (only for registered students at U of I)
1(217) 333-2700

Francis Nelson Health Center, 1306 Carver Drive, Champaign, IL 61820
1(217) 356-1558

**Low-cost Dental Care, Champaign County Health Care Consumers (CCHCC)**
1(217) 352-
Transportation

Campus Automobile/Motorist Protection University Service (CAMPUS) 1(217) 244-HELP (4357)
Safe Rides (requires valid University of Illinois ID; available Spring and Fall terms only) 1(217) 265-7433
SafeWalks Escort Service is available for short walking trips on campus 1(217) 333-1216
Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District 1(217) 384-8188
Bicycle Permits 1(217) 333-3530
Amtrak 1(800) 872-7245
Bluebird Charter Coach (daily shuttle to Chicago airports) 1(800) 400-5500
Greyhound Bus Lines 1(800) 231-2222

Other Useful Numbers

Student Legal Services 1(217) 333-9053
Champaign-Urbana Tenant Union, 44 Main Street Champaign, IL 61820 1(217) 352-6220
0r 326 Illini Union, 1401 W. Green Street 1(217) 333-0112
Weather Forecast 1(217) 351-2900
Campus Facilities & Services 1(217) 333-0340
University Directory Assistance Campus online directory 1(217) 333-1000
TTY/TTD University Directory Assistance for the hearing-impaired 1(217) 244-6677
Champaign-Urbana Directory Assistance AnyWho Directory Assistance 411

Government Offices

U.S. Immigration & Naturalization Service, 10 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604 1(312) 353-7334
Internal Revenue Service, 310 W. Church, Champaign, IL 61820 1(800) 829-1040
Social Security Administration, 101 South Country Fair Drive, Champaign, IL 61821 1(217) 359-5399
Illinois Department of Revenue, 1717 Philo Road, Urbana, IL 61801 1(800) 732-8866
Driver’s License Examination Station, 2012 Round Barn Road, Champaign, IL 61821 1(217) 278-3344
City of Champaign 1(217) 403-8700
City of Urbana 1(217) 384-2342
18. COVID-19 Information and Resources

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

Current Campus Building Access, Vaccination, and COVID-19 Testing Requirements (as of 8/1/2022)

Building Access Status is no longer active on the Illinois app or the Boarding Pass. You should not ask anyone to prove their vaccination or testing status.

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.

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 once per week. Testing compliance will be monitored and those out of compliance may face student or employee discipline.

Face Mask Requirements
As of August 2022: Face coverings are not required in classrooms or any campus spaces; Face coverings are required in healthcare facilities (COVID-19 testing sites, McKinley Health Center, Counseling Center, etc.); Face coverings are not required in research labs unless non-COVID-related PPE is needed in the research environment. There are to be no additional expectations for face coverings for units, facilities and events. Individuals are always welcome to wear a face covering to protect themselves.

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://isss.illinois.edu/updates/coronavirus.html

Testing Positive
The University has plans and processes in place to help maximize safety and minimize the spread of COVID-19.

Quarantining and Isolating
Quarantine helps prevent the spread of disease by separating and restricting the movement of people who were exposed to COVID-19. It is used to keep someone who might have been exposed to the virus away from others to reduce the potential risk of transmission. You can find information for quarantine guidelines on the CDC website.

Isolation is used when someone has actually tested positive for COVID-19. It is used to keep someone known to be contagious with COVID-19 away from others. When an individual tests positive for COVID-19, they will be required to isolate. You can find information for isolation guidelines on the CDC website.

View Illinois Human Resources’ COVID-19 Employee Guidelines for Close Contact Quarantine and Infected Isolation.
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.

19. Physics Graduate Student, Faculty, and Grad Program Mentoring Guidelines

The Department of Physics and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is dedicated to facilitating the educational and professional growth of graduate students. Graduate students, faculty, and the Graduate Program Office must work together to foster a supportive mentoring environment.

Graduate students have responsibilities in the following areas:

Fostering a positive and supportive climate
- Demonstrate ethical, professional and courteous behavior towards other students, faculty and staff
- Be proactive and communicate openly about needs and concerns

Promoting academic success
- Take responsibility for knowing and fulfilling degree requirements
- Take responsibility for knowing and executing ethical, professional norms
- Understand and follow department, Graduate College and university policies, including academic integrity, student conduct and responsible conduct of research
- Be receptive to academic and research direction and feedback from advisors

Promoting career development
- Identify and pursue professional development opportunities
- Take initiative for career exploration and job searching

Faculty have responsibilities in the following areas:

Fostering a positive and supportive climate
- Foster the overall wellbeing of students
- Provide students a safe, supportive environment
- Advise students regarding the ethics of their profession
- Be responsive and receptive to students’ requests for academic feedback and professional advice
- Demonstrate ethical, professional and courteous behavior towards other faculty, students, and staff

Supporting academic and research success
- Guide students in developing academic and research skills
- Convey clear expectations for academic and research progress
• Provide timely, constructive feedback and periodic evaluations
• Promote students’ timely academic and research progress
• Inform students on requirements for academic integrity, responsible conduct of research and other relevant policies

Promoting career development
• Foster the professional development of students to prepare for future employment
• Assist students in achieving their career goals
• Encourage students to attend professional meetings, network, and/or display their work in public settings to foster potential career opportunities

The Graduate Programs Office has responsibilities in the following areas:

Fostering a positive and supportive climate
• Foster the wellbeing of students
• Provide students a safe, supportive environment
• Connect students with appropriate university offices and resources
• Help resolve student problems and conflicts
• Demonstrate ethical, professional and courteous behavior towards students, faculty and staff

Promoting academic success
• Provide information about degree requirements, academic policies and expectations
• Share information about fellowships, awards and other academic opportunities
• Monitor student academic and research progress, provide at least yearly evaluations and communicate with students

Promoting career development
• Promote student engagement in professional development programs
• Recognize that students pursue a wide range of careers
• Direct students to resources that can help them pursue and succeed in their careers of choice
### Recommended Guidelines for Graduate Student Mentoring

#### Positive & Supportive Environment

**Graduate Programs**
- Foster the well-being of students
- Provide students a safe, supportive environment
- Regularly provide feedback and encouragement
- Encourage participation in community activities

**Graduate Students**
- Take initiative for career exploration and the job search
- Identify professional development needs and plans
- Engage in school and community activities

**Faculty**
- Support and encourage graduate student opportunities
- Assist students in their career goals
- Foster the professional development of students
- Provide references and letters of recommendation

#### Academic Success

**Graduate Programs**
- Help future students prepare for their careers
- University office resources and counseling
- Regularly communicate with program members

**Graduate Students**
- Acquire knowledge and skills that are needed
- Establish goals and responsibilities
- Foster the development of skills and knowledge

**Faculty**
- Academic feedback and professional advice
- Encourage and support students' career growth
- Foster the overall well-being of students

#### Career Development

**Graduate Programs**
- Provide academic and professional opportunities
- Build and maintain professional connections
- Foster leadership and networking opportunities

**Graduate Students**
- Take initiative for career exploration and the job search
- Identify professional development needs and plans
- Participate in school and community activities

**Faculty**
- Assist students in their career goals
- Foster the professional development of students
- Provide references and letters of recommendation

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**Dates**
- 10/2019
- The Graduate College
- grad@illinois.edu