# **STANFORD PHYSICS** Graduate Student Handbook 2018-2019

# AVERAGE TIME SPENT COMPOSING ONE E-MAIL



The department reserves the right to make changes at any time without prior notice. It is the student's responsibility to review the Graduate Handbook on an annual basis. This handbook augments the Bulletin and other University publications and contains department-specific policies, procedures, and degree requirements. Further information and resources are available from the Director of Graduate Studies, student services staff, and can be found on our website. It is the responsibility of each student to familiarize himself/herself with this information and to seek clarification as needed.

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Dear Graduate Student,

Welcome to the Stanford Physics Department. This handbook should answer many questions you may have about the department and the program. If you have additional questions please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to working with you during your graduate career.

#### PHYSICS MAIN OFFICE

Hours: 10 am - 12:00 pm & 1 pm - 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, Closed for lunch from 12 - 1 p.m.

Below is a list of Physics Department main office staff, contact information, and a short list of areas of responsibility. If you have questions, feel free to ask any staff member.

NAME	TITLE	E-MAIL	PHONE	OFFICE
Rosenna Yau	Administrative Services Manager	rosenna.yau@stanford.edu	3-4345	Varian Main Office, Rm 110
Karen AjluniFinancial Managerkajluni@stanford.edu3-4346Rm 111Works with faculty to process research grants and contracts and oversee the financial accounts in the department; handles HR issues, processes pay distribution, as well as all temporary student, research assistant, and academic staff research associate appointments.				
	Administrative Associate, Faculty Affairs Is. Conan-Tice in the Physics Main O questions about the department.	tice@stanford.edu ffice to arrange meetings with	3-4347 our Departme	Varian Main Office, Rm 105 ent Chair, for textbook
	Student Services Officer stration of the Graduate Program; proc raduate admissions, etc.	maria.frank@stanford.edu cesses RA/TA stipends, tuition	3-0830 and fellowsh	Varian Main Office, Rm 106 ips, graduate student
	Undergraduate Program Coordinator e program; schedules courses; maintai aate students as course teaching assista		3-4362 oordinates the	Varian Main Office, Rm 107 recruitment, hiring
Violet Catindig Responsible for key dis student inquiries.	Administrative Associate stribution, purchasing card, petty cash	vvc@stanford.edu reimbursement, main office ad	3-4344 Iministrative s	Varian Main Office, Rm. 108 upport, and answering
	Administrative Associate e support for Main Office staff; gradua raduate admissions support.	afreshwa@stanford.edu te and undergraduate student s	3-3349 ervices suppo	Varian Main Office, Rm. 108 rt; Oral Qualifying

For additional information on facilities, colloquium listings and other department events/services please see our department website at <a href="http://physics.stanford.edu">http://physics.stanford.edu</a>

#### YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

All students must enter current phone numbers into the AXESS system. The information will be used for the graduate student contact list and you will receive important program information most often via email. Please keep you information in AXESS current, especially emergency phone numbers.

#### ACADEMICS

#### Advising

First year students have a program advisor selected by the department to advise on course selection and rotations until settling into a research group. Students typically join a research group during or near the end of the first year. This Dissertation Research advisor will direct the research program for the remainder of the student's graduate career.

Professor Sean Hartnoll is the Chair of the Physics Graduate Study Committee for 2018-19. He is available (by appointment) to consult with students about any graduate student related matter, including degree progress.

#### Co-Advisors

Physics graduate students have a wide range of research choices available to them, including working on a Physics-related program in a different department, with a research advisor who is not a member of the Physics Department. Students working with advisors outside Physics/Applied Physics/SLAC\* must have a co-advisor who is a faculty member in the Physics Department.

\*Students with SLAC PPA faculty advisors DO NOT require a co-advisor.
Students with SLAC Photon Science faculty advisors who have Ph.D. in Physics DO NOT require a co-advisor.
Students with SLAC Photon Science faculty advisors with a Ph.D. in an area other than Physics DO require a co-advisor.

A co-advisor serves two main roles: (i) acting as an official liaison for the student to the Physics Department and (ii) insuring that the student's dissertation has a physics component that is sufficient to allowing granting of a Ph.D. in Physics. The co-advisor also serves as the student's contact to the department for any academic issues that would be more appropriately dealt with by Physics, rather than a faculty member in another department.

Students should select the co-advisor as soon as he/she is no longer on rotation and has decided on a research program with an advisor in a department other than Physics. In any case, this should be no later than the end of the second year of graduate study. Students should complete the "<u>Advisor/Co-Advisor</u>" form and submit it to the Physics Student Services Officer, Maria Frank.

During the third year the student submits a dissertation proposal on his/her research, including a description of the physics components, to Maria Frank. The proposal should have been reviewed, approved and signed by the student's research advisor, co-advisor and Reading Committee Members (see Milestones).

From then on, the student is required to meet with his/her co-advisor on a yearly basis, although more frequent meetings are encouraged. If, during the annual meeting, the co-advisor determines that the research no longer contains a significant physics component, the student will be

counseled that a Ph.D. in Physics may not be merited and he/she may need to transfer to the relevant department.

#### Minor

A minor in another department must be approved by that department, using the "Application for Ph.D. Minor" form: <u>https://stanford.app.box.com/v/app-phd-minor</u>

Your plan must also be approved by the Chair of Graduate Studies. Please see the <u>Stanford Bulletin</u> for more information.

#### Master's Degree

The department does not offer a coterminal degree program, or a separate program for the M.S. degree, but this degree may be awarded for a portion of the Ph.D. degree work.

University requirements for the master's degree, discussed in the "<u>Graduate Degrees</u>" section of the bulletin, include completion of 45 units of unduplicated course work after the bachelor's degree. Among the department requirements are a grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0 (B) for the following required courses (or their equivalents):

See the Stanford Bulletin for detailed information on obtaining the M.S. degree in Physics

TAKE ALL	COURSES BELOW	Units
PHYSICS 212	Statistical Mechanics	3
PHYSICS 220	Classical Electrodynamics	3
PLUS <u>one</u> of the following courses:		
PHYSICS 230	Graduate Quantum Mechanics I	3
PHYSICS 231	Graduate Quantum Mechanics II	3
PHYSICS 234	Advanced Topics in Quantum Mechanics	3
PHYSICS 330	Quantum Field Theory I	3
PHYSICS 331	Quantum Field Theory II	3
PHYSICS 332	Quantum Field Theory III	3
PLUS two 3 unit graduate level courses in Physics or Applied Physics.		6

Up to 6 of these required units may be waived on petition if a thesis is submitted.

The <u>Graduate Program Authorization Petition</u> form (required for those interested in pursuing the M.S. in Physics) must now be submitted electronically through AXESS. From the Academics panel in your Student Center, select "Petitions and Forms" from the drop down menu to submit the Graduate Program Authorization Petition electronically. You also need to submit the <u>Program</u> <u>Proposal for a Master's Degree</u> to the Physics Student Services Officer. The form can be found here: <u>https://stanford.app.box.com/v/progpropma</u>.

#### **REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PH.D.**

#### **COURSE WORK**

The minimum department requirements for the Ph.D. degree in Physics consist of completing all courses listed in the chart below **AND at least one course from each of two subject areas outside the student's primary area of research (among biophysics, condensed matter, quantum optics and atomic physics, astrophysics and gravitation, and nuclear and particle physics).** For this requirement students must choose from courses numbered above PHYSICS 234 excluding 290, and 294.

The requirements in the following list may be fulfilled by passing the course at Stanford or passing an equivalent course elsewhere. All required courses, including breadth requirements, must be taken for a LETTER GRADE.

TAKE ALL	COURSES BELOW	Units
PHYSICS 212	Statistical Mechanics	3
PHYSICS 220	Classical Electrodynamics	3
PHYSICS 290	Research Activities at Stanford	1
PHYSICS 294	Teaching of Physics Seminar	1
PLUS <u>one</u> of the following courses:		
PHYSICS 230	Graduate Quantum Mechanics I	3
PHYSICS 231	Graduate Quantum Mechanics II	3
PHYSICS 234	Advanced Topics in Quantum Mechanics	3
PHYSICS 330	Quantum Field Theory I	3
PHYSICS 331	Quantum Field Theory II	3
<u>PHYSICS 332</u>	Quantum Field Theory III	3

A grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0 (B) is required for courses taken toward the degree.

All Ph.D. candidates must have math proficiency equivalent to the following Stanford MATH courses:

		Units
<u>MATH 106</u>	Functions of a Complex Variable	3
<u>MATH 113</u>	Linear Algebra and Matrix Theory	3
<u>MATH 116</u>	Complex Analysis	3
PHYSICS 111	Partial Differential Equations of Mathematical Physics	4
PHYSICS 112	Mathematical Methods for Physics	4

#### **COURSE WAIVERS**

Students who can demonstrate that they have taken the equivalent course elsewhere with the necessary grade may request to waive that course by submitting the following form: <u>Petition</u> to <u>Waive/Substitute Courses</u> Follow the instructions, complete and then submit the form with all supporting documentation to the Graduate Student Services Officer, Maria Frank. Note

you may submit petitions to waive <u>core courses only</u>. The breadth requirement must be fulfilled by courses you have taken at Stanford University.

**Students are strongly encouraged to complete or waive course requirements as soon as is practical in their graduate careers**, but no later than the end of your second year. This lessens the possibility of delays in the granting of a degree or in transferring to TGR status with its lower tuition rate. Note that most physics courses, including the core courses, are only offered once in each academic year and the more advanced courses may only be offered less frequently. Advanced planning is to your benefit.

#### **TEACHING**

The department believes that a demonstrated ability to teach is an important part of a graduate-level education in Physics. Consequently, three quarters of teaching are a requirement for the Ph.D. in physics. Teaching duties vary from course to course but can include leading discussion sections, laboratory sections, meeting with students informally through office hours, and grading homework and exams. Beginning Autumn 2018/19 it is possible to petition to receive teaching requirement credit by working as a course assistant (CA) for a maximum of two terms. See detailed instructions here: <a href="https://physics.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/petition\_to\_receive\_ta\_credit.pdf">https://physics.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/petition\_to\_receive\_ta\_credit.pdf</a>

All TAs in the Physics Department are required to take <u>PHYSICS 294</u> (Teaching of Physics at Stanford). It is preferred that PHYSICS 294 is taken prior to the first quarter of working as a TA, however it may be taken concurrently with you first Physics TA assignment.

A TA application form must be completed before any quarter in which a student wishes to teach. The form is made available online a few weeks prior to the end of the preceding quarter on the Physics Department website <u>https://physics.stanford.edu/academics/graduate-students/student-assistantships/teaching-assistant</u>. The Undergraduate Program Coordinator is responsible for TA assignments and will notify students of application availability and deadlines.

First year graduate students are given first priority for TA positions, however first year Physics students do NOT teach in their first term at Stanford.

Note that all students are required to complete the three quarter TA requirement PRIOR to committing to completing any long-term research at a location a significant distance from the Stanford University campus. Examples include CERN in Geneva, KITP at UC Santa Barbara and the Soudan Mine in Minnesota.

#### ENGLISH PROFICIENCY FOR TEACHING ASSISTANTS (International Students Only)

The University requires that International graduate students who wish to be appointed as TAs must first be screened by proficiency in the English language. The screening is conducted by the English for Foreign Students Program in the Stanford Language Center. The Language Center also offers courses in English as a second language (ESL) to international graduate students. More information on the screening exam can be found at <a href="https://language.stanford.edu/programs/efs/languages/english-foreign-students/screening-international-teaching-assistants">https://language.stanford.edu/programs/efs/languages/english-foreign-students/screening-international-teaching-assistants</a>. We strongly recommend students get screened at least one quarter prior to the quarter in which they wish to TA.

#### **GRADING**

Occasionally the department needs graders for courses. Grading positions provide an hourly wage, do not pay any tuition allowance and cannot be used to fulfill the teaching requirement. Graders

may work a maximum of 8 hours per week, but international students may not work as graders during the academic year if they have a 50% RA or a combined RA/TA appointment. Rules are slightly different for summer quarter. See Maria Frank or Elva Carbajal if you have further questions about grading positions.

#### **QUALIFYING ORAL EXAMINATION**

The Qualifying Exam consists of an oral exam taken in the second year, typically in the Fall or Winter quarter. The student will make a presentation about a recent development or paper in an area of research interest to the student to a faculty exam committee. Exhibiting command of the material by answering questions from the committee about the relevant physics will be required. For more detailed information, see the FAQ page and the relevant pages below.

**2018-2019 Qualifying Exam Policy** 

2018-2019 Qualifying Exam Form

**Qualifying Exam Previous Approved Topics** 

#### **UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS**

#### **Continuous Registration**

https://gap.stanford.edu/handbooks/gap-handbook/chapter-3/subchapter-1/page-3-1-1

Students must be registered for **10** units of coursework and/or research (PH 490) every term during the academic year (Autumn, Winter and Spring quarters). Registration procedures may vary slightly during summer term, but you will receive instructions at the end of spring term on how many units to register for during the summer, depending upon the percentage of summer RA or TA appointment and/or the number of units funded by your fellowship if you have one. If you plan to be away from campus for an extended period of time you need to fill out a leave of absence form officially approved by your advisor, the Physics Department, and the Degree Progress Office during the quarter before the requested leave. Note that fieldwork directly related to your thesis does not require you to take a leave of absence and that a leave of absence is not required for summer term.

#### **Residency Requirement for the Ph.D**

#### https://gap.stanford.edu/handbooks/gap-handbook/chapter-3/subchapter-2/page-3-2-1

The University requires students studying for the Ph.D. to complete 135 units of study. Students who have completed 135 units must then apply for Terminal Graduate Registration (TGR) status, which usually happens in the fourth or fifth year of study and is discussed further on page 12. Note that your 135 units **must include** all courses required for the Physics Ph.D. unless you have specifically waived them.

#### **Registration Procedures**

In fall, winter, and spring quarters, students register for 10 units via AXESS. Units taken are usually a combination of course units and research units (Physics 490, under your research advisor) as appropriate. 50% support TA and RA appointments include a tuition allowance for the 10 unit tuition rate. Some outside fellowships include full tuition (18 units); refer to your fellowship award letter or contact Maria Frank if you have questions.

In summer quarter ONLY, students in year 2 and above can receive up to 75% RA support and in year 3 and above, up to 90% if approved by the advisor. Students in year 1 are only eligible to

earn 50% RA or RA/TA support in summer quarter.

Registration unit levels for summer quarter are slightly different than in fall, winter and spring. The amount of tuition allowance you receive depends upon the percentage of your appointment. For example, if you work as a 75% research assistant, you receive 5 units of tuition support and should only register for 5 units. Detailed information regarding summer registration is sent to students via e-mail at the end of spring quarter.

TGR students register for Physics 802 (TGR Dissertation) for 0 units under their research advisor.

#### Advancing to Candidacy

#### https://gap.stanford.edu/handbooks/gap-handbook/chapter-4/subchapter-6/page-4-6-1

Advancing to candidacy is a very important step, with both departmental and university requirements. Departmental requirements include (i) passing the Physics Qualifying Oral Exam and (ii) completing all required core courses with the exception of PHYSICS 294. PHYSICS 294 (Teaching of Physics at Stanford) should be taken prior to or concurrently with the first quarter you work as a TA, which, for some graduate students may not happen until later in their graduate career. Note that financial support may be delayed if you do not advance to candidacy by your pre-candidacy period expiration date. The *Application for Candidacy for Doctoral Degree* can be found here: <a href="https://stanford.app.box.com/v/appcanddoct">https://stanford.app.box.com/v/appcanddoct</a>

#### **Extension of Candidacy**

Ph.D. candidate status is good for **five years** after your pre-candidacy period has ended. You may see your candidacy expiration date in AXESS by viewing your unofficial transcript. If your candidacy end date is approaching or has expired, the following Candidacy Extension form should be completed, signed by your research advisor and submitted to the Physics Student Services Officer ASAP for review and processing: <u>https://stanford.app.box.com/v/appcandextens</u>

#### Leave of Absence

https://gap.stanford.edu/handbooks/gap-handbook/chapter-5/subchapter-3/page-5-3-1

Stanford requires graduate students to maintain continuous enrollment for all terms of the academic year (excluding summer quarters) from admission through conferral of the degree. However, the university also recognizes that circumstances may arise where this may not be possible. In such circumstances, a student may request a leave of absence for up to one year, or four quarters, or be placed on a mandatory leave of absence. During the period of an approved leave, the student will not be registered. See more detailed information about Leaves of Absence by clicking on the link above. Leave of absence petitions can be obtained here:

https://stanford.app.box.com/v/leaveofabsence

#### Length of Leave

All leaves of absences are granted for a fixed period of time, normally one year or less. Students who have completed all residency requirements (including advancement to candidacy) may request an additional year of leave if special circumstances exist. If no approved extension is on file, a hold is automatically placed on future registration. A student who wishes to return at a later date must file for reinstatement and an extension of candidacy. This applies whether it is the same major and degree program or a different one.

#### Status While on Leave

Students on approved leave retain their current degree program status but are not considered officially registered. No official departmental or University requirement, e.g., University Oral Examination, may be met while a student is on leave. However, an incomplete course grade may be submitted when a student is not registered. Also, a student may file a request to change major or degree level while on leave.

#### Returning Early from a Leave of Absence

Graduate students returning early from an approved leave of absence must file the *Returning Graduate Student Request to Register* form before the beginning of the quarter in which they wish to return. The form can be found here: <u>https://stanford.app.box.com/v/returning-student-request</u>

#### Withdrawal from Program

<u>https://gap.stanford.edu/handbooks/gap-handbook/chapter-5/subchapter-4/page-5-4-1</u> A student who wishes to terminate study in a program should submit a Request to Permanently Withdraw from Degree Program form <u>https://stanford.app.box.com/v/permanent-withdraw</u> to the Student Services Officer, who will forward the information to the University Registrar.

#### Reinstatement

A student who has withdrawn and later wishes to return to the same degree program must follow the normal procedure for reinstatement. Further information on reinstatement can be found here: <u>http://studentaffairs.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/registrar/files/appgradreinstate.pdf</u>

#### Inactive Status/Discontinuation

A student who has not resigned and fails either to maintain registration or to secure a formal leave of absence will be declared inactive. A student whose candidacy is not extended is also considered inactive. If a student wishes to resume study either in Physics or a different field, he/she must apply for reinstatement. Reinstatement is not automatic and must be approved by the Department.

#### Terminal Graduate Registration (TGR) Tuition Status

https://gap.stanford.edu/handbooks/gap-handbook/chapter-6/subchapter-1/page-6-1-1%23anchor-36#anchor-36

The Humanities and & Sciences Dean's office requires students with 135 units to apply for TGR status. This usually occurs in the 4<sup>th</sup> year of study. TGR tuition rates are much lower than the 10-unit rate so it is important to apply for TGR tuition status as soon as you are eligible. **Be sure to complete all required courses, including breadth requirements, and speaking/writing courses for foreign students, prior to the fourth year of study.** While on TGR tuition status, you need to register for PHYS 802 for "0" units under your research advisor. Note you **must** fulfill all degree course requirements before you can go TGR. Applications for TGR status are available at the following link: <u>https://stanford.app.box.com/v/tgrreq</u>

Before applying for TGR status check your transcript and confirm that you have received a grade or mark (Satisfactory or CR, for example) for <u>every</u> course you have taken at Stanford.

#### Graduation Quarter Tuition Status

https://gap.stanford.edu/handbooks/gap-handbook/chapter-6/subchapter-1/page-6-1-1%23anchor-46#anchor-46

Registration is required for the term in which a student submits a dissertation or has a degree conferred. Students who meet the conditions listed below are eligible to file a <u>Petition for</u> <u>Graduation Quarter</u>, and, upon approval, to be assessed a special tuition rate for the quarter in which they are receiving a degree. Only one Graduation Quarter may be requested. There is a registration fee of \$150 for the graduation quarter. Students must enroll in the appropriate TGR course during their Graduation Quarter.

Carefully review the eligibility requirements on the <u>Petition for Graduation Quarter</u> prior to submission. Students who are properly enrolled in a Graduation Quarter are registered at Stanford and therefore have the rights and privileges of registered students.

#### **Reading Committee**

https://gap.stanford.edu/handbooks/gap-handbook/chapter-4/subchapter-8/page-4-8-1#anchor-304

Submission of an approved doctoral dissertation to the department and the Committee on Graduate Studies is required for the Ph.D., Ed.D., and J.S.D. degrees. The doctoral dissertation is expected to be an original contribution to scholarship or scientific knowledge, to exemplify the highest standards of the discipline, and to be of lasting value to the intellectual community. Every doctoral dissertation is read and approved by members of the Stanford faculty to ensure that standards for departmental and university quality are met. Standards for professional presentation of doctoral work have been established by the Committee on Graduate Studies.

Click on the link above for detailed policy information regarding Doctoral Dissertation Reading Committees. The reading committee, as proposed by the student and agreed to by the prospective members, is endorsed by the Chair of the major department on the <u>Doctoral Dissertation Reading</u> <u>Committee</u> form.

This form must be submitted before approval of Terminal Graduate Registration (TGR) status or before scheduling a University oral examination that is a defense of the dissertation. The reading committee should be appointed in Year 3 as committee members need to review and sign off on each Ph.D. candidates Third Year Thesis Proposal (see Milestones).

All subsequent changes in the composition of the reading committee must be approved by the Chair of the Ph.D. major department prior to submission of the dissertation via the <u>Change of Advisor or</u> <u>Reading Committee Member form</u>.

#### Oral Examination https://gap.stanford.edu/handbooks/gap-handbook/chapter-4/subchapter-7/page-4-7-1

The University Oral Examination is a requirement of the Ph.D. degree. The purpose of the examination is to test the candidate's command of the field of study and to confirm fitness for scholarly pursuits. The Ph.D. candidate and his advisor will determine when, after advancement to candidacy, the exam will be given. In the Physics Department the Oral Examination is a defense of the dissertation.

The University Oral Examination committee consists of at least five members: four examiners and an out-of-department committee Chair. The Chair must be a member of the Stanford Academic Council and may not have a full or joint appointment in the same department as the candidate or her/his advisor. *In most cases, a SLAC faculty member would not be the best choice for Oral Examination Committee Chair because of the close connection to the Physics Department. In the interest of objectivity the examinee should strive to find a faculty member from another department to serve as Chair.* See the Graduate Academic Policies and Procedures Manual for rules in selecting a dissertation defense committee chair and the reasons why the Oral Examination Committee Chair must be from outside the department.

Students must be registered in the quarter in which the University oral examination is taken. Candidacy must also be valid. The <u>Doctoral Dissertation Reading Committee form</u> must be submitted to and recorded by the department prior to scheduling the examination. An abstract of the dissertation must be provided prior to the defense. The <u>University Oral Examination Schedule form</u> is used to officially schedule the examination and includes:

- Date, time and location of the examination
- Title of dissertation
- Composition of the committee, approved by the department Chair

This form should be submitted by the student to the department Student Services Officer *at least two weeks prior to the examination date*.

#### Writing and Submitting the Dissertation

Students work with their advisor(s) in planning and preparing the thesis. For detailed instructions see: <u>https://registrar.stanford.edu/students/dissertation-and-thesis-submission</u> Contact the Graduate Degree Progress Office with additional questions:

#### Conferral of Degree

#### https://gap.stanford.edu/handbooks/gap-handbook/chapter-5/subchapter-7/page-5-7-1

To be cleared for conferral of the Ph.D. or Master's degree, you must apply to graduate via AXESS by the due date indicated on the Registrar's Office website. Check with the Student Services Officer to make sure all requirements have been met and all grades have been cleared.

#### Commencement Ceremony <u>https://commencement.stanford.edu/</u>

For detailed information about participating in the university wide commencement ceremony, visit the link above.

The Physics Department allows Ph.D. students near completion to "walk through" the departmental ceremony. This means that you may participate if you plan to complete all the requirements for your degree the quarter following the commencement ceremony. To be eligible to walk through you must complete and submit the Commencement Ceremony Participation webform which is sent to graduate students via the Physics Graduate Student email distribution list in March/April.

#### Grades https://registrar.stanford.edu/students/definition-grades

It is your responsibility to check grades in AXESS each quarter to make sure they have been correctly reported for every term you have registered at Stanford. See your instructor about grade disputes and missing grades, and see the Student Services Officer about the procedure for grade changes. Be sure that Incomplete ("I") and Continuing Course ("N") grades are cleared when courses are completed. "I" grades will be changed to Not Passed ("NP") after one year.

#### Credit for Graduate Work Done Elsewhere (Graduate Residency Credit) <u>https://gap.stanford.edu/handbooks/gap-handbook/chapter-3/subchapter-2/page-3-2-1#anchor-</u> <u>178</u>

After at least one quarter of enrollment, students pursuing a Ph.D. may apply for credit for graduate work done at another institution if that work meets the established eligibility criteria. Note that transfer units cannot be used towards a Master's degree. No more than 45 units of transfer credit may be applied towards a Ph.D.

The eligibility criteria for coursework accepted for transfer credit are specified in the Stanford Bulletin. Students must complete and submit the <u>Application for Graduate Residency Credit</u> which is reviewed by the department and the University Graduate Degree Progress Office.

Students enrolled at Stanford who plan to study elsewhere during their degree program should obtain prior approval of any anticipated transfer residency credit before their departure.

#### More Information

See the Stanford University Bulletin, <u>http://exploredegrees.stanford.edu/#text</u> and the Graduate Academic Policies and Procedures Manual <u>http://gap.stanford.edu</u> for further information on University requirements, grading policies, course adds, drops, withdrawals, etc.

#### MILESTONES <u>https://gap.stanford.edu/handbooks/gap-handbook/chapter-4</u>

The usual schedule for physics graduate students consists of two years of course work, plus research training, leading to the dissertation and Ph.D. degree. Although there are exceptions, a well-prepared graduate student should complete the dissertation within five years after qualifying for candidacy, i.e., passing the Qualifying Oral Exam, completing all course work and filing the application for candidacy.

The following are the major milestones for the Physics Ph.D. program:

#### First or

**Second year:** Pass the Physics Oral Qualifying exam no later than spring qtr of 2<sup>nd</sup> year.

- Second year: Submit <u>Application for Candidacy for Doctoral Degree</u> by pre-candidacy period end date of your second year. Candidacy is valid for five years.
- **Third year:** Prepare a tentative <u>Proposal for Thesis Research</u> by end of summer term of the third year. The Ph.D. candidate must submit a 1-3 page proposal **signed by the student**, **advisor and co-advisor (if required) and all members of the reading committee**. By this time ALL course requirements should be completed the Reading Committee form should be submitted. You can find the Doctoral Dissertation Reading Committee form here:

https://stanford.app.box.com/v/docdiss-reading-committee-form

**Fourth year:** Fourth-year students are required to give a 45-minute oral presentation to their Ph.D. reading committees. Generally no other people besides the student, advisor and reading committee members are present at the oral presentation.

All students must complete this requirement in the fourth year of study. Experience has proven this is an extremely reliable tool to help students stay on track to degree completion.

The purpose of the requirement is to increase contact between students and faculty members, to help students organize their thoughts, to give students practice in giving oral presentations, and most importantly to obtain feedback on the development of the thesis, approximate date of thesis completion and future plans.

These are informal meetings, and no grades are given. Students schedule the presentations themselves. By end of winter quarter of the fourth-year students should have a set date for the oral presentation.

The sessions should consist of a half-hour presentation by the student, 15 minutes of discussion between the student, research advisors and readers, and then a closed door discussion by the committee.

Fourth year oral presentation forms are available online at <u>https://physics.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/revised\_fourth\_yr\_oral.pdf</u>

When 135 units have been completed, apply for Terminal Graduate Registration (TGR) tuition status. TGR forms are available online at: <u>https://stanford.app.box.com/v/tgrreq</u>. See earlier section ("Terminal Graduate Registration Status") for more detail.

#### Fifth year or

when appropriate: Take the university <u>oral exam</u>, and file dissertation by quarterly deadline.

#### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

#### **Financial Aid Information Forms**

The financial aid information form is sent out via e-mail every quarter and is available at <u>https://physics.stanford.edu/academics/graduate-programs/forms</u>

Students use this form to indicate their intention to work as a TA and/or RA, or indicate that They have fellowship support. There is a strict deadline by which the financial aid form must be submitted to the Graduate Student Services Officer. Late submission of forms may delay stipend payment and/or cause denial of the health insurance subsidy.

During the academic year, students can be paid for a 50% (full support) RA appointment which includes 8, 9 or 10 units of tuition. Since it costs the same for 10 units as it does for 8, students must register for 10 units every quarter in order to more quickly progress to TGR status and thus, a lower tuition rate. In Physics, students often combine smaller TA and RA appointments during the same quarter, for a total 50% appointment. U.S. citizens can work an additional 8 hours per week as graders. International students cannot work more than 50% during the academic year.

In summer quarter, students in year 2 can work a total 75% appointment and receive tuition allowance for 5 units, and those in years 3 and above can have 90% appointment and receive tuition allowance for three units, if the appointment is agreed to by their advisor. This is true for both U.S. citizens and international students.

#### **Fellowships**

Applying for fellowships is strongly encouraged. In particular, all eligible first year students who are U.S. citizens or permanent resident aliens should apply for the NSF fellowship. See the following web sites for further information on various fellowships:

National Science Foundation (NSF): <u>https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/grfp/</u> Hertz Foundation: <u>http://hertzfoundation.org</u> Department of Defense:<u>http://www.asee.org/ndseg/</u> Stanford Graduate Fellowship (SGF)*by nomination only*: <u>http://sgf.stanford.edu</u> NASA: <u>https://science.nasa.gov/researchers/sara/fellowship-programs#gradops</u>

See the "Web Resources" section of this handbook for more web links to fellowship information.

#### Teaching Assistantships

https://physics.stanford.edu/academics/graduate-students/student-assistantships/teachingassistant

Graduate students can apply for a position as a teaching assistant before the beginning of each quarter. First year students do not teach in the autumn quarter of their first year.

The salary for 2019-19 TA appointments can be viewed <u>here</u>. See Elva Carbajal, the Undergraduate Program Coordinator, for questions about teaching assistant assignments and refer to the <u>Physics</u> <u>TA web pages</u> for further information.

The department provides a teaching orientation (<u>PHYSICS 294</u>, Teaching of Physics Seminar, offered Autumn and Winter terms) and the Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning (VPTL) has an excellent orientation session in the fall, and valuable training available at any time. See <a href="https://vptl.stanford.edu/">https://vptl.stanford.edu/</a> and <a href="https://vptl.stanford.edu/">https://vptl.stanford.edu/</a> excellent orientation for more information.

#### **Research** Assistantships

Research assistant salaries in Physics for the 2018-19 academic year are as follows:

50% RA, 1st year students
50% RA, 2nd year+ students
25% RA, 1st year students
25% RA, 2nd year+ students
RA Supplement (for some fellowship students)

\$10,146 per quarter/\$1,691 per pay period \$10,234 per quarter/\$1705.67 per pay period \$5,073 per quarter/\$845.50 per pay period \$5,673 per quarter/\$945.50 per pay period Varies depending upon fellowship

Regular graduate (non-TGR) tuition allowances for the 2018-19 academic year are as follows:

50% RA 25% RA RA Tuition Supplement (for some fellowship students) \$10,990 per quarter \$5,495 per quarter Varies depending upon fellowship

The federal and state governments tax salaries for virtually all current students. Foreign students may wish to consult a tax professional regarding possible tax exemption based on a treaty between the US and their home countries. See the following webpage for helpful information: <u>https://bechtel.stanford.edu/practical-matters/taxes</u>. Foreign students receiving taxable scholarships or fellowships may claim any applicable treaty exemption by filing the appropriate forms with the Student Financial Services office.

#### First Year Vouchers

#### What are these vouchers?

A voucher is a 50% departmental research assistantship, providing 50% RA salary and tuition allowance for non-fellowship students. Students not on fellowship (such as NSF, SGF, etc.) can use up to two vouchers in the first year. Each voucher can be used to pay for the cost of a 50% RA for one quarter.

Prior to settling in to a research group, students on fellowship may be able to receive fellowship supplement support during their Year 1 Autumn, Winter and/or Spring terms IF their fellowship stipend does not meet the minimum quarterly salary level for a first year grad or if fellowship tuition does not meet the 10 unit graduate rate. See your Student Services Officer, Maria Frank for more information.

#### How long do I have to use them?

You must use the vouchers in your first year as a rotation student AND they must be used during autumn, winter or spring terms. **The vouchers are not valid during summer quarter.** 

#### What's the purpose of these vouchers?

The vouchers are intended to help first year graduate students without fellowship support secure a rotation with the research group that he/she is most interested in and/or help relieve the financial burden for two quarters.

#### When should I use them?

The vouchers are for students without fellowship support who want to rotate into a research group that does not have adequate funding to support them. With a voucher, you can work as a 50% RA without having the advisor pay for your salary or tuition

#### May I use two vouchers in one quarter?

No, you may not. Students may not receive more than 50% support during any given quarter during the academic year. Also, the vouchers must be used during Autumn, Winter or Spring terms. **The vouchers are not valid during summer quarter.** 

#### Health Insurance Subsidy

Stanford subsidizes the Cardinal Care premium for graduate students who are employed in research or teaching assistantships, and for students receiving the equivalent level of fellowship support. Details regarding eligibility and amount can be found here: http://financialaid.stanford.edu/grad/funding/subsidy.html.

The following enrolled graduate students (who do not waive Cardinal Care and do not have an outside fellowship source paying the full cost of insurance) will receive the FULL subsidy:

- those with a Research or Teaching Assistantship appointment of 25% or more
- those with a fellowship paying a non-tuition stipend at or above the minimum salary for a 25% assistantship (CA or RA)

The following enrolled graduate students (who do not waive Cardinal Care and do not have an outside fellowship source paying the full cost of insurance) will receive the PARTIAL subsidy:

- those with a Research or Teaching Assistantship appointment of less than 25%
- those with a fellowship paying a non-tuition stipend at or above the minimum salary for a 10% assistantship (CA or RA)

Students not meeting the above criteria are not eligible for a Cardinal Care subsidy.

The FULL benefit consists of a payment of 50 percent of the Cardinal Care premium\*. The PARTIAL benefit consists of a payment of 25 percent of the Cardinal Care premium\*.

\* For the purposes of calculating the amount of this subsidy, the Cardinal Care premium is defined as the cost of the 12-month coverage, divided by three academic quarters.

Click here for a Cardinal Care Cost Table: https://financialaid.stanford.edu/pdf/cardcarecostcoverage1819.pdf

#### How does Cardinal Care subsidy work during the summer?

Students who are enrolled in Cardinal Care during the academic year will automatically be enrolled in Cardinal Care for Summer Quarter at no additional cost (whether they are enrolled as a student in

the summer or not). Since there is no charge posted for Cardinal Care during Summer Quarter, a corresponding Cardinal Care subsidy is not applied in Summer quarter.

In those cases, where a student was charged for Cardinal Care during Autumn, Winter or Spring but was not eligible for the subsidy during that quarter, and has subsidy-eligible support (assistantship or fellowship) during the Summer, the subsidy will be given to the student "retroactively" during the summer.

#### Departmental Travel Reimbursement Support

The Physics Department offers travel fund reimbursement of up to \$300 for domestic travel, or \$500 for international travel, to assist Physics doctoral students traveling to **professional meetings to present their research.** Up to three trips are permitted using these funds during a student's academic career, **but only one trip per student may be funded each academic year**. Students who use this fund should be participating substantively in the meeting (presenting a paper or serving on a panel). Further instructions and reimbursement request forms can be found here: <a href="https://physics.stanford.edu/academics/graduate-programs/forms">https://physics.stanford.edu/academics/graduate-programs/forms</a>

#### PAYMENT OF FELLOWSHIP STIPENDS AND TA/RA SALARIES

#### **Fellowships**

The Financial Aid Office will either directly deposit or mail checks directly to students who receive aid in the form of a University or outside fellowship at the beginning of each quarter.

#### Salaries

Teaching and research assistants are paid as university employees. Employees are paid on the 7th and the 22nd of the month or on the preceding Friday if one of those dates falls on a weekend or holiday. The first paycheck in Autumn Quarter arrives on 10/22 for the period from 10/1 to 10/15. The 11/7 paycheck covers the period from 10/16 to 10/31. The last paycheck of the academic year comes on 7/7 for the period from 6/16 to 6/30. Students are strongly encouraged to have paychecks deposited directly to an individual bank account. You can apply for <u>direct deposit</u> via AXESS. Note that students who are paid by SLAC may be subject to different rules and procedures. Check with the SLAC Human Resources Department if you have any questions.

If you opt not to sign up for direct deposit, you can pick up your check from the main office receptionist only during regular office hours (10 a.m. - 12:00 noon and 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday)

All employees can view their Pay Statement online by logging in to AXESS.

Holders of assistantships may sign up for <u>Payroll Deduction</u> to conveniently pay housing and other student.

#### **REQUIREMENTS FOR EMPLOYMENT AS AN RA OR TA**

#### **Full Time Enrollment**

<u>In order to receive pay from the university you must be registered as a full-time graduate student.</u> For Graduate students this means that you must enroll in courses and/or research totaling **8-10** units (10 units preferred) each quarter during the academic year (if not on TGR status) and for the zero unit TGR course PH 802 if you are on TGR status. Enrollment levels for summer quarter will vary according to your appointment percentage. Enrollment levels for some fellowship students may vary. Check with the dept. Student Services Officer if you have questions.

#### English Proficiency for Teaching Assistants (International Students Only)

The University requires that International graduate students who wish to be appointed as TAs must first be screened by proficiency in the English language. The screening is conducted by the English for Foreign Students Program in the Stanford Language Center. The Language Center also offers courses in English as a second language (ESL) to international graduate students. More information on the screening exam can be found at

<u>https://language.stanford.edu/programs/efs/languages/english-foreign-students/screening-international-teaching-assistants</u>. We strongly recommend students get screened at least one quarter prior to the quarter in which they wish to TA.

#### Tax declaration

All students receiving assistantship salary must have submitted a form SU-32/W-4/DE-4 Employee's Tax Data (includes federal and state withholding certificate).

# Review the information at the "<u>Getting Started as an Employee</u>" and "<u>"Teaching Assistantships"</u>" pages for other important information/requirements.

Assistantships are "full-quarter packages" (12 weeks of either teaching or research work). Employment is for full quarters with standard start/stop dates. The salary start and stop dates of an assistantship are coordinated with the standard pay periods for Stanford employees, as follows:

FALL QUARTER: October 1 - December 31 WINTER QUARTER: January 1 - March 31 SPRING QUARTER: April 1 - June 30 SUMMER QUARTER: July 1 - September 30.

Note that these dates are normally different from the start and stop dates of quarters on the university's academic calendar. This timing is intended to deliver continuous salary to students appointed for multiple sequential quarters, i.e., students on assistantships are paid during the periods between quarters. Arrangements for any variations in work hours, including time off for vacation or illness, should be made individually with the faculty sponsor. See Administrative Guide Memo 10.2.1 (Graduate Student Assistantships, Section 11) for detailed information: <a href="https://adminguide.stanford.edu/chapter-10/subchapter-2/policy-10-2-1">https://adminguide.stanford.edu/chapter-10/subchapter-2/policy-10-2-1</a>

#### HOW TO PAY UNIVERSITY BILLS

For detailed information on the various ways to pay University bills see the University Bill web page. <u>https://sfs.stanford.edu/student-accounts/pay-your-bill</u>

#### **COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITIES**

As members of the Physics community, all students are expected to help out occasionally with special events such as our department open house, and to serve on committees. Typical physics community responsibilities are listed below by year of study:

First Year Students - Assist with open house for new admits Second Year Students - Assist with qualifying exam preparations Third Year Students - Assist with graduate student orientation, talk to visitors Fourth Year and Advanced Grad Students - Assist with various physics community events

In addition, students may volunteer or be asked to participate in:

#### **PHYSICS GRADUATE STUDY COMMITTEE (STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES)**

Three graduate students attend graduate study committee meetings and give their input concerning curriculum, teaching, and department policies.

#### TOWN HALL MEETINGS

These meetings are held in the fall and spring quarters to discuss student related issues and concerns.

#### LUNCH WITH THE CHAIRS

Each year graduate students have the opportunity to meet and have lunch with the Physics Department and Graduate Studies Committee Chairs. This is your opportunity to speak to the Chairs about how things are going for you. It is also a time for you to discuss the Ph.D. Program and express any concerns or suggestions for improvement that you may have.

#### Colloquia

Colloquia are held on Tuesdays in the William R. Hewlett Teaching Center, Room 200 or 201 at 4:15pm, unless otherwise indicated.

Refreshments are served at 4:00pm in the Varian Physics Lobby. The general public is cordially invited and all Physics students are encouraged to attend.

Schedule may be subject to change. For up-to-date colloquium information, please check the department website <u>https://physics.stanford.edu/news-events/applied-physicsphysics-colloquium</u> and/or look for the notices posted weekly in the lobby of the Varian Physics building. Email notifications will also be sent out on a weekly basis when school is in session.

#### **BEFORE LEAVING STANFORD**

- Please return all keys to the receptionist and retrieve your deposit.
- Complete a <u>GRADUATE EXIT INFORMATION FORM</u>
- Apply for a leave of absence if you have not yet submitted your dissertation.
- File an "Application to Graduate" for the quarter in which you expect to receive a degree. You may do this via AXESS

#### **RECOMMENDED REFERENCE BOOKS AVAILABLE IN THE PHYSICS LIBRARY**

<u>The Ph.D. Process : A Student's Guide to Graduate School in the Sciences</u> by Dale F. Bloom, Jonathan D. Karp, Nicholas Cohen, Oxford University Press (1999)

<u>Graduate Research: A Guide for Students in the Sciences</u> by Robert V. Smith, University of Washington Press (1998)

#### WEB RESOURCES

DEPARTMENT OF AERONAUTICS AND ASTRONAUTICS <a href="http://aa.stanford.edu/">http://aa.stanford.edu/</a>

DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED PHYSICS http://www.stanford.edu/dept/app-physics/cgi-bin/ ASTRONOMY PROGRAM http://www.stanford.edu/dept/astro/

STANFORD ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY <u>http://orion.stanford.edu/</u>

AXESS - (Requires login with SUNet ID) <u>https://axess.stanford.edu/</u>

BIO-X http://biox.stanford.edu/

BULLETIN/EXPLORE DEGREES http://exploredegrees.stanford.edu/#text

CANVAS - (Requires login with SUNet ID) <u>https://canvas.stanford.edu/</u>

DIRECTIONS FOR PREPARING DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS http://studentaffairs.stanford.edu/registrar/students/dissertation-thesis

BECHTEL INTERNATIONAL CENTER <a href="https://bechtel.stanford.edu/">https://bechtel.stanford.edu/</a>

DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING <a href="http://ee.stanford.edu/">http://ee.stanford.edu/</a>

CAMPUS EATERIES http://www.stanford.edu/dept/visitorinfo/activities/dining.html

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY <u>https://ehs.stanford.edu/</u> and <u>https://physics.stanford.edu/resources/safety-training</u>

EXPLORE COURSES <u>https://explorecourses.stanford.edu/</u>

GATEWAY TO FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (FINGATE) <u>http://web.stanford.edu/group/fms/fingate/</u>

GEBALLE LABORATORY FOR ADVANCED MATERIALS (GLAM) https://glam.stanford.edu/

GINZTON LABORATORY https://ginzton.stanford.edu/

GRADUATE STUDENTS OF APPLIED PHYSICS AND PHYSICS (GSAPP) <u>http://web.stanford.edu/group/gsapp/</u>

HANSEN EXPERIMENTAL PHYSICS LAB (HEPL) <u>http://hepl.stanford.edu/</u>

STUDENT HOUSING https://rde.stanford.edu/studenthousing/ COMMUNITY HOUSING SERVICES https://rde.stanford.edu/studenthousing/community-housing

HUME WRITING CENTER RESOURCES FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS https://undergrad.stanford.edu/tutoring-support/hume-center/writing/graduate-students

KAVLI INSTITUTE FOR PARTICLE ASTROPHYSICS AND COSMOLOGY (**KIPAC**) <u>https://kipac-web.stanford.edu/</u>

LINAC COHERENT LIGHT SOURCE (LCLS) https://portal.slac.stanford.edu/sites/lcls\_public/Pages/Default.aspx

LIBRARIES <u>http://library.stanford.edu/</u>

PHYSICS MACHINE SHOP https://physics.stanford.edu/service-centers/machine-shop

MAPS http://visit.stanford.edu/plan/index.html

PARTICLE PHYSICS AND ASTROPHYSICS http://www-group.slac.stanford.edu/ppa/

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS https://physics.stanford.edu/

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY PLAN https://physics.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/physics\_emergency\_plan\_8-2017.pdf

PULSE INSTITUTE FOR ULTRAFAST ENERGY SCIENCE <u>https://ultrafast.stanford.edu/</u>

REGISTRAR'S OFFICE <u>https://registrar.stanford.edu/</u>

SIMPLE ENROLL <a href="https://registrar.stanford.edu/resources-and-help/axess-students/how-use-simpleenroll">https://registrar.stanford.edu/resources-and-help/axess-students/how-use-simpleenroll</a>

STANFORD INSTITUTE FOR MATERIALS AND ENERGY SCIENCE (SIMES) <a href="http://simes.stanford.edu/">http://simes.stanford.edu/</a>

STANFORD INSTITUTE FOR THEORETICAL PHYISCS (SITP) <a href="https://sitp.stanford.edu/">https://sitp.stanford.edu/</a>

STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES <u>https://sfs.stanford.edu/</u>

SLAC NATIONAL ACCELERATOR LABORATORY <a href="http://www.slac.stanford.edu/">http://www.slac.stanford.edu/</a>

STANFORD SYLLABUS https://syllabus.stanford.edu/syllabus/#/mainSyllabus STANFORD SYNCHROTRON RADIATION LIGHTSOURCE (SSRL) https://ssrl.slac.stanford.edu/content/

STANFORDWHO https://stanfordwho.stanford.edu/SWApp/lookup

STANFORDYOU - (Requires login with SUNet ID) https://stanfordyou.stanford.edu/main/SYApp

STANFORD UNIVERSITY GRADUATE ACADEMIC POLICIES & PROCEDURES HANDBOOK (GAP) <u>http://gap.stanford.edu/</u>

VICE PROVOST FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING (VPTL) <a href="https://vptl.stanford.edu/">https://vptl.stanford.edu/</a>

#### FELLOWSHIPS & SCHOLARSHIPS

AT&T

http://www.research.att.com/internships?fbid=nC2-wOvFEPV

DOE OFFICE OF SCIENCE GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP (**DOE SCGF**) <u>http://science.energy.gov/wdts/scgf/</u>

HERTZ FOUNDATION http://www.hertzfndn.org/

IBM

https://www.ibm.com/developerworks/university/phdfellowship/

NASA GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCHERS PROGRAM (NASA GSRP) https://science.nasa.gov/researchers/sara/fellowship-programs#gradops

NATIONAL DEFENSE SCIENCE & ENGINEERING GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP (NDSEG) <a href="http://ndseg.asee.org/">http://ndseg.asee.org/</a>

NATIONAL PHYSICAL SCIENCE CONSORTIUM (NPSC) http://www.npsc.org/Applicants/Applicants/fellowshipinfo.html

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (**NSF**) <u>https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/grfp/</u>

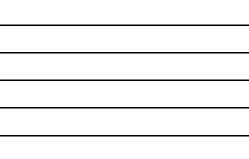
STANFORD GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP (SGF) (*BY NOMINATION ONLY*) <u>http://sgf.stanford.edu/</u>

STANFORD OFFICE OF THE VICE PROVOST FOR GRADUATE EDUCATION (**VPGE**) FELLOWSHIPS (ALL BUT *DARE* AND *SIGF* ARE BY NOMINATION ONLY) <u>https://vpge.stanford.edu/fellowships-funding/all</u>

#### **PHYSICS DEPARTMENT DIRECTORIES**

FACULTY: <u>https://physics.stanford.edu/people/faculty</u> ACADEMIC STAFF <u>https://physics.stanford.edu/people/academic-staff</u> RESEARCH STAFF: <u>https://physics.stanford.edu/people/research-staff</u> ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF: <u>https://physics.stanford.edu/people/administrative-staff</u>

## NOTES



# NOTES