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Introduction

- Welcome! You are the newest physics graduate students at UF. Congratulations on getting in. Get ready to embark on an epic journey through physics grad school. It's going to be tough, but you'll make friends to help you along the way.
- Who are we? The Physics Grad Community (PGC):
 - a. Davis Chen (dclover23@ufl.edu)
 - Hoda Akl (hodaakl@ufl.edu)
 - Jake Rosenzweig (rosedj1@ufl.edu)
 - Mayar Shahin (mayar.shahin@ufl.edu)
- We are the first point of contact for questions about physics grad life.
- Join our FB group:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/879870325942391/>

What to expect at UF

- Prelim Exam
 - a. Aug 17,18
 - b. Something like: 09:00-12:00 and 14:00-17:00 (both days)
 - c. It's OK if you **don't pass** the first time! (4 attempts)
 - d. Practice on old prelim exams:
<https://www.phys.ufl.edu/wp/index.php/graduate/preliminary-exam/>

Here's What Year 1 Looks Like

- Year 1: Coursework and Teaching

- a. 1st year = core courses
- b. Semester 1:
 - i. EM 1 - Maslov
 - ii. QM 1 - Muttalib
 - iii. Class Mech - Laura Blecha
 - iv. Teaching labs (lab training)
 - v. teach 3 sections of lab
 - 1. Teach either Physics 1 or 2 lab.
 - 2. 1 week before you teach the lab, YOU yourself do the lab.
 - 3. PIZZA! (hopefully)
 - 4. You may be signed up for 7:25 A.M. labs!
 - vi. Chuck (Mr. Charles Parks) will be your best friend! :-D
- c. Semester 2:
 - i. EM 2 - Maslov?
 - ii. QM 2 - Muttalib?
 - iii. Stat Mech - ?
- d. "Shop around" for an advisor.
- Year 2: Distribution Courses/Credits
 - a. Life gets easier!!! Light at the end of the tunnel.
<https://www.phys.ufl.edu/wp/index.php/graduate/>
- Years 3-4: Committee, qual, research
- Years 5-X: Thesis

Tips to Succeed

- a. Band together to succeed.
 - i. Help each other with HW.
 - ii. Give credit to your classmates.
- b. Make a group chat: GroupMe/WhatsApp/Slack/Discord.
- c. Professors are relaxed:
OK to ask to move deadlines
- d. Use office hours!
- e. Do your HW and you won't 'need' to study for exam
 - i. Get into a study routine; don't fall behind!
 - ii. Check out the super-useful pomodoro technique!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WqBuh4HWu8U>

Life in Gainesville

a) Housing

- a. You all probably have housing.
- b. Broadly you will be either in:
 - i. On-campus
(Corry Village, Diamond, Tanglewood)
- super competitive, do not depend on it, you'll probably be on a lease.
 - ii. Off-campus
Easy to get. Flexible leases. Inexpensive.
 - iii. Stoneridge, The Lofts, Continuum, Gainesville Place, Oxford Manor, The Landings, etc. (we are preparing the survey)
 - iv. Use the facebook group to find roommates.

b) Fun

- i. Lake Wauberg (especially Saturday mornings)
 1. You can rent Kayaks, Sailboats and use the rock climbing tower, obstacle course, go swimming, bike trails, ladder golf, frisbee, footballs
- ii. Rock climbing gym - Sun Country Sports Center
- iii. Friday Night Gator Nights
(bowling, pool, movies, art classes, FREE FOOD!)
- iv. Bike trails hiking trails, camping
 1. Suwanee, La Chua, Sweetwater Preserve, Paynes Prairie, San Felasco Park, Gainesville-Hawthorne Trail, etc.
- v. Go to the beach!
 1. Equidistant to:
 - a. St. Augustine (East)
 - b. Jacksonville (Northeast)
 - c. Daytona (Southeast)
 - d. Tampa (Southwest)
- vi. Go to the springs, float down the rivers
(Ichetucknee, Ginnie)
- vii. SCUBA diving
- viii. OAR (<https://www.ufadventure.com/>)
Outdoor Adventure Recreation group
- ix. Football games (campus gets craaaazy)
 1. Tailgating!

- x. Karaoke - Stage 7 Karaoke Bar
- xi. Pool/billiards
 - 1. Main Street Bar & Billiards/Palomino Pool Hall
- xii. Paintball/Archery
- xiii. Going to other students' places!
- xiv. Gainesville is centrally located. Two hr drive to:
 - 1. Jax, Tampa, Orlando, Tallahassee
 - 2. Miami is 5 hours
- xv. Depot Park: bring your dog, get some ice cream, go for a walk
- xvi. Midtown, Downtown (Barcade/Vivid Sky Warehouse/Simon's/The Social/The Midnight etc.)
 - 1. Local Breweries - Cypress & Grove/First Magnitude/Swamp Head
- xvii. Cat cafés
- xviii. Take your daily break in the Grad lounge: ping pong, video games, chill out (Get the key code from Pam).
- xix. Intramural Sports/Tennis Courts/Volleyball Courts/Southwest Rec Center rents out gear
- xx. Krishna lunch!
- xxi. Most importantly, make friends within your cohort.

c) Food/Restaurants

- i. Krishna lunch (Vegetarian/Vegan)
 - 1. Buy lunch tickets in bulk to save \$\$\$.
- ii. Reitz Union Cafeteria
- iii. On-campus meal plans
- iv. Vegetarian places:
 - 1. Most places have veggie options: Sababa, Red Rice, Indian Street Food, Reggae Shack, La Tienda, more!
- v. Indian Bazaar/Chun Ching Market/La Aurora Latin Market/Zeezenia Market
- vi. Starbucks around every corner:
 - 1. Library West
 - 2. Marston Library
 - 3. Reitz Union
- vii. Halo Potato Donuts
- viii. Farmer's Markets

- ix. Nice coffee shops (CYM, Wyatt's Coffee, Maude's, Volta, Curia on the Drag, CAT CAFÉS?!)
- x. Late night food:
 - 1. Wawa, 5 Star Pizza, Relish,
- xi. **Organizers' favorite places:**
Chop Stix, Texas Roadhouse, Ichiban, Red Rice, Sababa, Blaze, The Top, Crane Raman, Satchel's, Piesano's (close to campus), Dragonfly
- xii. Mostly everything downtown is tasty but pricey.
- xiii. First Magnitude Brewery
- xiv. Many food trucks around town

d) Transportation

- i. RTS buses
 - 1. Download Transloc
 - 2. Sunday has reduced service.
Few buses!
- ii. You can get by without a car, but it is nice!
 - 1. Want to park on campus?
Buy an **annual decal**.
 - 2. Speed limit is 20 mph on campus,
Speed limit is 10 mph near on-campus housing.
- iii. Gville is very bike friendly. 😊

e) Money-Saving Tips

- i. Krishna lunch
- ii. Coupon Book ("Gator Greenbacks") sometimes given at beginning of the semester near The Hub
- iii. Skip Starbucks! Get a coffee machine :D
- iv. Facebook Marketplace
- v. Download the app "GCM" (Gift Certificates and More) for more coupons.