

I hope that everyone is now settled in for the Spring semester. This newsletter contains reminders for graduating students, the Career Resource Center events, and summer research opportunities.

Graduating Students:

In order to get a diploma you need to apply to graduate - it does not happen automatically. This is now done on-line through ISIS. The deadline for this semester is February 1. You can find other information about commencement including how to order regalia and a graduating check list at <http://registrar.ufl.edu/commencement/> . The Academic Advising Center also has a FAQ at <http://www.advising.ufl.edu/faq/seniorgradfaq.html> .

After you apply to graduate, the Academic Advising Center will then make sure you have satisfied the requirements to graduate. Your transcript will be forwarded to the Physics department to make sure that you have satisfied all the Physics requirements to graduate. At that time I will make any remaining course substitutions, etc. so that the computer recognizes that you have completed all the requirements to graduate. This is, of course, assuming that you have met them. If you have any questions about whether you have met all the requirements to graduate, you should see an adviser as soon as possible. It is a good idea for all students - not just graduating seniors - to look at the degree requirements for Physics degrees at

http://www.phys.ufl.edu/undergrad_program/reqBS.html
http://www.phys.ufl.edu/undergrad_program/reqBA.html
http://www.phys.ufl.edu/undergrad_program/minor.html

and to look at your on-line audit on ISIS. If you wish to speak to an adviser, the most current advising hours are posted at

http://www.phys.ufl.edu/undergrad_program/

Students who have a 3.5 or higher upper division GPA will graduate with honors. Your ISIS audit should tell you whether or not you will receive honors. To receive high or highest honors you must hand in a senior thesis based on research you have done with a faculty member in this department in addition to meeting the GPA requirement. Senior theses are due several weeks before the end of the semester so it is a good idea to start writing now. I will be contacting all students who have honors status based on GPA to see if you are doing a senior thesis.

Career Resource Center:

If you intend to look for a job after you graduate as opposed to going to graduate school, then the UF Career Resource Center (CRC) is a tremendous help. The CRC can also help you find an internship with a company before you graduate. With some of our students this has led directly to a job once they graduate. There are several important CRC events coming up shortly, including the Spring Career Showcase

4:05 Series:

The initial 4:05 Series workshop of the Spring 2008 semester will be next Tuesday. The topic is Career Showcase Preparation, and as always, it will take place at the CRC at 4:05 PM in the classroom. The 4:05 Series Spring schedule is available on the CRC homepage, <http://www.crc.ufl.edu> .

CLAS Employer Panel:

An Employer Panel is being hosted at the CRC on Mon. Jan 28th from 6:30 - 8:00 PM. The panel will consist of employers and/or professors who were CLAS majors as undergrads, and it is an opportunity for current CLAS students to ask questions about job searching, career paths, choices, etc. Subway sandwiches will be provided on a first come, first served basis from 6:30 - 7:00 PM as students mingle and interact with panel members.

Career Showcase:

The Spring Career Showcase is Tues. Jan. 29 (Non-Technical Majors) and Wed. Jan. 30 (Technical Majors like Physics). Please visit <http://www.crc.ufl.edu/showcase> before going to the event. Over 300 employers will be attending. Recruiters consistently tell the CRC that they hire all majors. According to the CRC the keys are skill development, having some sort of experience (work, internships, volunteering, campus involvement, etc.) and researching the employer. I also discuss the Career Showcase in the September 2007 newsletter, which is available from the undergrad section of the Physics department web site.

Other Career Information

Many of you are already applying to a graduate school in Physics or a related field like engineering. In the last few years some of our students have gone on to the following programs.

Masters of Science in Management: This is a 10 month program run by the College of Business Administration designed specifically for students who did not get an undergraduate degree in business. Information on the program can be found at <http://www.cba.ufl.edu/msm> .

Medical Physics: Many hospitals are now hiring students with graduate degrees in Medical Physics to run their imaging equipment and radiation therapy. UF has had a Medical Physics program for a number of years (see http://www.nre.ufl.edu/academic_progs/medphys.php) and new ones are opening up all the time. Recently, Duke University started a Medical Physics program: <http://www.medicalphysics.duke.edu> .

Summer Research:

If you have not already done so, now is the time to apply for summer research programs. In the November 2007 newsletter I discussed undergraduate research.

Two popular are the National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) programs and the University Scholars Program, although there are a number of other kinds of programs which are advertised on the Physics Major listserv. There are REU programs across the country - not just at the University of Florida. It is a good idea to apply to more than one program, particularly since the U.F. Physics department can only accept a maximum of 5 of our own undergraduates to our program.

The University Scholars Program is a special U.F. program. Each year we have several students participate in this program. The USP program deadlines are usually due before Spring Break. An announcement will be sent the Physics Majors listserv when the USP deadlines for this year announced. Information for both of these programs may be found at

REU programs: http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/reu_search.cfm
University Scholars: <http://www.scholars.ufl.edu>

Please send questions, comments, or additions to selman@phys.ufl.edu .