

UF PHYSICS UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING NEWSLETTER

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MEET YOUR ADVISOR REGULARLY!

LIST OF ADVISORS AND OFFICE HOURS

<http://www.phys.ufl.edu/academics/undergraduate/>
OR SNED AN E-MAIL TO ADVISING@PHYS.UFL.EDU

- SPS REU MEETING: TBA but in the week of Jan. 25 - 29
- HS SCIENCE BOWL & BBQ: Feb. 27
- ANNUAL PHYSICS PICNIC: Mar. 27

SENIORS! ALERT, ALERT!

If you intend to graduate this semester, you need to apply to graduate on ISIS by **Friday, January 29**. You can find links and more information on graduation at <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/gradhub.html>. Additional information is located at <http://www.advising.ufl.edu/faq/seniorgradfaq.html>. After you apply, 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. 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 (BS)

http://www.phys.ufl.edu/undergrad_program/reqBA.html (BA)

http://www.phys.ufl.edu/undergrad_program/minor.html (Minor)

Honors degree

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.

Need recommendation letters? Here are some guidelines to make the process go smoothly.

1. First, you should choose a faculty member who knows you well and can write a good letter of recommendation: teacher or research advisor
2. Ask the faculty member well in advance. A month is a good lead time, but even longer will be helpful to both you and the faculty member.
3. Provide the faculty member with all the relevant information: your UF ID, a paper copy of your transcript, a personal statement, and some examples of your research or other work.
4. Process as much of the recommendation as you can yourself. Many applications have forms. Type in the faculty member's name and address. If the application must be mailed, provide an addressed stamped envelope. It is also an excellent idea to provide a list of where you are applying and the relevant deadlines.

ARE YOU READY FOR SUMMER RESEARCH?

- Read the November Newsletter for more info.
- REU http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/reu_search.cfm
- University Scholars <http://www.scholars.ufl.edu>
- Come to the SPS REU meeting. TBA

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YOUR CAREER

SPRING CAREER SHOWCASE: January 19 – 20, 2010, O'Connell Center

<http://www.crc.ufl.edu/students/index.aspx>

If you are either looking for a job after graduation or an internship/co-op experience, this is the place to start.

For those planning to attend the career showcase, we offer **the following advice:**

1. You will need a *resume*, which lists your skills and job objectives. The Career Resource Center located on the second floor of the Reitz Union has people on hand to critique and help you with your resume after you have a printed version. Their web site is

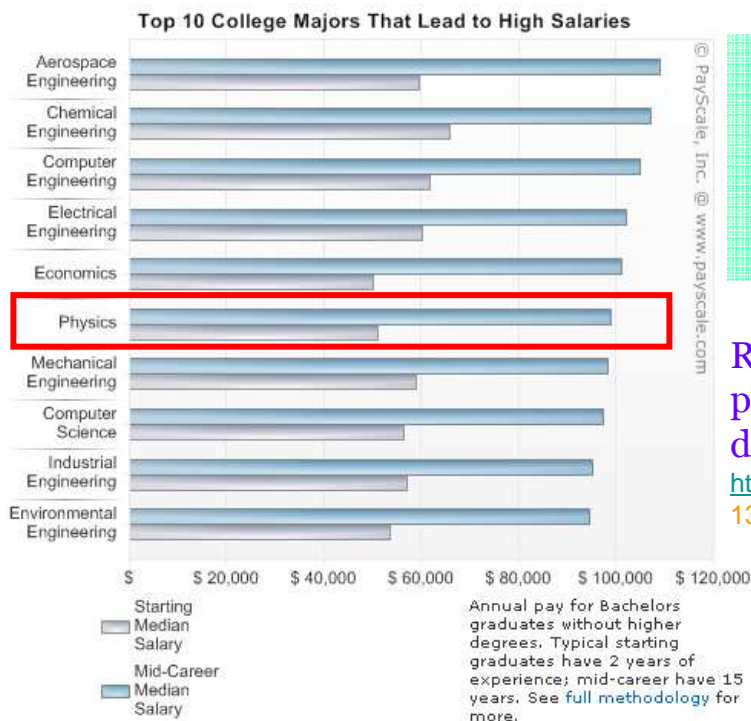
<http://www.crc.ufl.edu>.

2. To do any on-campus interviewing *you must register* at the Career Resource Center with Gator CareerLink. This is easy to do and allows you to post your resume on-line so that employers can access it. You may register on-line from the CRC home page listed above.

3. Research the companies on the web by first going to the Career Resource Center website at www.crc.ufl.edu to see who is attending. Companies may not be specifically looking for Physics majors, but they will be looking for your skills.

4. Go to the fair. The typical dress is a *conservative suit or dress*. If you do not have a suit, wear something nice. You will not have long to talk to individual employers so present yourself well. The top three traits employers say they are looking for are *motivation/attitude, communication skills, and ability to work in groups*. The recruiter is not going to care how well you can do contour integrals or find leaks in vacuum systems. Make sure to get a business card from the recruiter or a contact person.

5. After the fair, do not wait to be called. *Be pro-active and contact the companies* you are interested in. Remember you only need one good job offer. It may take several tries before you get it.



PREPARING FOR A CAREER IN PHYSICS

STARTS FROM RESEARCH!

Visit this useful website and do the right thing!

<http://aps.org/careers/student/undergraduate.cfm>

Researcher in science area is one of 13 promising professions for the next decade.

<http://www.kiplinger.com/columns/onthejob/archive/13-careers-for-the-next-decade.html>