

UCSB DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

Graduate Student Handbook 2025-2026



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Physics Department Graduate Student Handbook

The Physics Department Graduate Student Handbook is intended as an overview of the policies and procedures regarding graduate students in the Department and will answer the majority of questions you may have. However, as in all UCSB Departments, many policies and procedures are established and administered by the Graduate Council. For detailed information on policies regarding graduate students at UCSB, the Graduate Division Student Handbook should be consulted. The Graduate Division Student Handbook is available online at www.graddiv.ucsb.edu.

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Introduction

Who's Who in the Physics Department

Department Chair:	Professor David Stuart Broida 5119, x3742 davidstuart@physics.ucsb.edu
Vice-Chair:	Professor Ben Mazin Broida 2015H, x3344 bmazin@physics.ucsb.edu
Faculty Graduate Advisor:	Professor Zvonimir Dogic Broida 4419, x2815 zdogic@physics.ucsb.edu
Staff Student Advisors:	Jennifer Farrar Broida 3019F, x4646 jennifer@physics.ucsb.edu Nohely Vargas Carrillo, Undergraduate Advisor Broida 3019C, x5421 nvargascarrillo@physics.ucsb.edu
Department Manager:	Christine Griffin Broida 3019A, x2740 cgriffin@ucsb.edu
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GSR Questions:	Elizabeth Lucatero, Physics-funded GSRs Broida 3019E, x3270, lucatero@physics.ucsb.edu
Academic Coordinator:	Paula Popescu Broida 3415, hta@physics.ucsb.edu
Physics Storeroom:	Sabrena Martin Broida 1301, sabrena_martin@ucsb.edu
Purchasing Coordinator:	Brianna White Broida 1311, x2540, briannawhite@ucsb.edu
Building Manager:	Daniel Stack, Building Broida 1301, x2747 dstack@physics.ucsb.edu
Physics Computer Services (PCS):	Chung Shen and Elizabeth Strait Broida 5223, x8366 pcs@physics.ucsb.edu

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Faculty

PHYSICS FACULTY

Atomic, Molecular and Optics

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David Weld weld@physics.ucsb.edu Broida 4119, x7634

Astrophysics (Experimental and Observational)

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Crystal Martin cmartin@physics.ucsb.edu Broida 2015D, x8760
Ben Mazin bmazin@physics.ucsb.edu Broida 2015H, x3344
Maxwell Millar-Blanchaer maxmb@ucsb.edu Broida 2015A

Astrophysics (Theory)

Lars Bildsten bildsten@kitp.ucsb.edu Kohn 2313, x3979
Omer Blaes blaes@physics.ucsb.edu Broida 3019, x7239
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Tejaswi Venumadhav Nerella teja@ucsb.edu Broida 2015E

Soft and Living Matter Physics

Frank Brown fbrown@chem.ucsb.edu Chem 4126, x5494
Jean Carlson carlson@physics.ucsb.edu Broida 6123, x8345
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Sebastian Streichan streicha@ucsb.edu
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Condensed Matter Physics (Experimental)

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Michel Devoret devoret@ucsb.edu Broida 4103, x5489
Ania Jayich ania@physics.ucsb.edu Broida 4105, x8089
Chenaho Jin jinchenhao@ucsb.edu Broida 4131

John Martinis martinis@physics.ucsb.edu Broida 4111, x3910
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Quantum Computing

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Wim Van Dam vandam@cs.ucsb.edu HFH 2151, x5211

Condensed Matter Physics (Theory)

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Matthew Fisher mpaf@kitp.ucsb.edu Kohn 2305, x3247
Andreas Ludwig ludwig@physics.ucsb.edu Broida 6119, x3223
Chetan Nayak nayak@kitp.ucsb.edu Elings 2241, x8829
Sagar Vijay sagarvijay@ucsb.edu Broida 6229, x7597
Cenke Xu xucenke@physics.ucsb.edu Broida 6137, x4029

High Energy Physics (Experiment)

Claudio Campagnari claudio@physics.ucsb.edu Broida 5119, x7567
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Hugh Lippincott hlippincott@ucsb.edu Broida 5131, x3061
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High Energy Theory

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Steven Giddings giddings@physics.ucsb.edu Broida 6105, x4750
David Gross gross@kitp.ucsb.edu Kohn 1514, x3687
Clifford Johnson cliffordjohnson@physics.ucsb.edu Broida 6113

High Energy Theory (Other)

* *Phenomenology:*

Nathaniel Craig ncraig@physics.ucsb.edu Kohn 6113, x6112

* *Mathematical Physics:*

David Morrison drm@physics.ucsb.edu Broida 6135, x8309

* *Quantum chaos:*

Mark Srednicki mark@physics.ucsb.edu Broida 6221, x2165

* *Numerical studies of field theory:*

Anthony Zee zee@kitp.ucsb.edu Kohn 2321, x4213

Relativity

Gary Horowitz gary@physics.ucsb.edu Broida 6239, x2742

Donald Marolf marolf@physics.ucsb.edu Broida 6131, x5205

Relativity Astrophysics

Douglas Eardley doug@kitp.ucsb.edu Kohn 2329, x2280

Important Locations in the Physics Department

	Room	Phone
Physics Administrative Offices:	Broida 3019	x3888
Physics Conference Room (Large)	Broida 3302	
Faculty/Staff Mailboxes	Broida 3014	
Undergraduate/Physics Study Room (PSR)	Broida 1019	
Graduate Student Mailboxes	Broida 5019	
Graduate Student Copy Machines	Broida 6019	
Physics Computing Services	Trailer 937	x8366
Physics Electronics Shop	Broida 2509	x2669
Physics Machine Shop	PSB-S 1719	x8638
Physics Storeroom	Broida 1301	x2747

First Year Student Orientation

Housing Your first priority when planning your move to Santa Barbara is to secure housing. Visit the housing office located in the University Center for information on available community housing. The department may know of a few roommate openings from students finishing and leaving before the new quarter begins. You will probably be required to pay first and last month's rent plus a cleaning deposit.

Fees It is essential that you review your BARC statement each month for charges incurred that you will be responsible for. There is a fee deadline for all "now due" charges on your statement at the beginning of each quarter (the deadline date is listed on the Registrar website at www.registrar.ucsb.edu). If you have any questions regarding your statement, please see the Staff Graduate Advisor, if they are not paid by the deadline. **NOTE:** A \$50.00 late fee will be charged to your account if there is a balance of \$2.00 or more after the "now due" deadline.

Fee Deferral For an additional \$25, you may defer your fees and pay over the course of the quarter. This is done through the Billing Office in the Student Affairs and Administrative Services Building (SAASB). Visit <https://www.bfs.ucsb.edu/barc/payment-plans> for more information.

Registration Registering for classes is done on-line ([GOLD](#)). Instructions for registering for classes are located in the *Schedule of Classes*. When you receive your registration materials, check the deadline date, as you will be registering for next quarter's classes during the current quarter. You should register as soon as your pass time opens. Check GOLD for pass times. If you do not register for classes by the deadline, you will be assessed a \$50.00 late registration fee. **NOTE:** Graduate Students have until the **15th day of instruction** to add classes to their schedule without approval from the Graduate Division. After this deadline, schedule adjustment petitions are required to be sent to the Graduate Division.

Waivers If you think you took an equivalent graduate course at a previous institution, email the instructor of the course for a waiver. If you are granted a waiver of the course, forward the email confirmation to the Staff Graduate Advisor at jfarrar@ucsb.edu and retain the waiver for your records. Please note that you will not receive transfer of unit credit. If you receive several waivers, you may need an exception approved by the Graduate Dean. If you petition for a master's degree after advancement, you will need to take additional units to achieve the required 36 units. It requires completion of a minimum of 36 units of upper-division and graduate coursework. No fewer than 24 of the 36 units required for the non-thesis option must be in graduate courses in the major subject or in graduate courses related to that subject. Teaching and research practica, 597, or 598 courses may not be used to meet this minimum unit requirement. No more than half of the required 24 graduate units may be in 596 coursework. See this [link](#) for more information.

Departmental requirements for the first quarter of registration Graduate students are required to enroll for a minimum of 12 units per quarter. You must take all core and elective courses for a letter grade. You should obtain approval from the graduate advisor before enrolling for less than, or dropping below, 12 units. **First year Ph.D. students** should enroll in the course schedule listed in the Academic section or otherwise discussed with the Faculty Graduate Advisor.

New Student Orientation Meeting The Campus-wide and Physics Department orientations will be held starting the Monday the week classes begin for all new students on campus in person. Make arrangements to be in Santa Barbara on or before the first day of mandatory orientation events. The Staff Graduate Advisor will email you details in early summer. For more information on the Campus-wide Graduate Student Orientation, click on the following link: <http://www.graddiv.ucsb.edu/profdev/new-students>. Please click on the following link for more information on the Campus-wide TA orientation: <https://id.ucsb.edu/>

Miscellaneous Department Information

Employment If you are to be appointed as either a Graduate Student Researcher (GSR) or Teaching Assistant (TA), there are several forms that need to be filled out, including eligibility for employment in the U.S., which require that you present proof in the form of two identifications—Driver's License or Passport, Birth Certificate or Social Security card. Foreign students must provide visa information, passport, I-20 and unexpired I-94. You will be notified via email by Business and Financial Services (BFS) on how to verify these documents. [Here](#) is a link of acceptable documents. Be sure that you have these documents when you arrive. Copies will not suffice. The Staff Graduate Advisor will send you instructions.

Your first paycheck will arrive the month following that for which your employment began. In Fall Quarter, this will be the first of November.

TA Loan: If you are appointed as a TA, you may apply for a TA loan up to the amount of your first month's salary beginning two weeks before classes start through the Office of Financial Aid. For more information, visit this link: <https://www.bfs.ucsb.edu/barc/collections>.

Offices: All graduate students will be assigned desk space either in an office or in the laboratory in which they are working. Keys will be assigned during the first week of classes.

Computer Accounts: Each student should have an email account set up. Please visit this [link](#).

Mailboxes: Student mailboxes are in Broida 5019. The campus mail service will not take personal mail and/or any mail with stamps affixed. Outgoing personal mail must be deposited in U.S. mailboxes or taken to the Post Office on the ground floor of the UCEN. U.S. mailboxes are located near the Materials Research Lab (MRL), the Coral Tree Café and the bus loop.

Computer Room: A computer and printer are available for your use 24 hours a day in the graduate student computer room located in Broida 5019. The door may be opened with your personal door code.

Storeroom Codes for TAs:

The storeroom is located in Broida 1301 (just north of the elevator lobby). You may obtain supplies there for your TA or research work, but supplies you charge out MUST be related to your work. The storeroom code for TA-ing undergraduate courses is 07. The storeroom code for graduate courses is 0R. Ask your research advisor about the code to use for research supplies.

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Academics

Outline of Academic Progress: Year 1

Quarterly

- Complete the core course requirements with a minimum grade of B

For the regular Physics PhD these are:

- Classical Mechanics (Phys 205) or Galactic Dynamics (Phys 237).
Physics 237 with a grade of B or better may be substituted for Physics 205 if the student has an official verification of demonstrated competency in Lagrangian Mechanics submitted by the Phys 205 instructor before enrolling in the course. If Physics 237 is used in this way as a substitution, it cannot be used as an elective.
- Electromagnetic Theory (Phys 210A-B)
- Quantum Mechanics (Phys 215A-B-C)
- Statistical Mechanics (Phys 219)

Alternatively, for students undertaking the Astrophysics Emphasis the core courses are:

- 5 of the following 6 courses: Stellar Structure and Evolution (Phys 232), The Interstellar Medium (Phys 233), High Energy Astrophysics (Phys 234), Extragalactic Astrophysics (Phys 235), Cosmology (Phys 236), Galactic Dynamics (Phys 237).
- Quantum Mechanics (Phys 215A)
- 2 of the following 4 courses: Electromagnetic Theory I & II (210A-B), Quantum Mechanics II (215B), Statistical Mechanics (Phys 219)

- ◆ Enroll in the Graduate Seminar (Phys 260G) each quarter.
- ◆ Enroll in 12 units per quarter. *Do not drop below 12 units without approval from the Faculty Graduate Advisor.*
- ◆ Explore different areas of research taking place in the Department by attending seminars in the 260 series, Special Topics, and brown bag lunches. Begin to focus on your field of interest and explore research opportunities with faculty in that field. Begin thinking about which faculty you might like to have on your supervising committee.
- ◆ Enroll in courses that contribute to meeting the following requirement before graduation:
Theoretical Students: 5 advanced graduate courses with a minimum grade of B. One of these courses should be in an area clearly distinct from your field of specialization.
Experimental Students: 3 advanced graduate courses with a minimum grade of B. Courses taken to satisfy the core course requirements cannot be used to satisfy this advanced course elective requirement.
Astrophysics Emphasis: 4 electives for theorists (with one in an area clearly distinct from your field of specialization) or 2 electives for observers/experimentalists.

Fall

- ◆ Enroll in the Teaching Assistant Seminar (Phys 500) Fall Quarter. Be sure to sign the attendance sheet for credit.
- ◆ Take steps to establish California residency; non-residents incur higher fees. Visit <https://registrar.sa.ucsb.edu/fees-residency/residency/residency-for-tuition-purposes> for instructions. Contact the Residence Deputy at Residency@sa.ucsb.edu.
- ◆ Register for Winter quarter courses during Fall.

Winter

- ◆ Domestic students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 2. Please accept Federal Work Study support; it is beneficial to the department and your advisor, if you are hired as a GSR.
- ◆ Apply to the Graduate Division for Continuing Student Central Fellowships, if eligible. Deadline: March. For more information, check out <http://www.graddiv.ucsb.edu/financial/central-campus-fellowships>.
- Register for Spring quarter courses during Winter.
- Submit the Petition for Resident Classification to the Registrar's Office to ensure classification as a California resident before the start of Fall Quarter.
- Think further about forming your Supervising Committee, choosing a research advisor, whether you might begin a research project in the near future, and finding funding for the coming summer.

Spring

- Work with the Faculty Graduate Advisor to finalize your Supervising Committee and hold your first Annual Update meeting with your committee. You should inform them of your progress thus far, and they will give you advice on how to proceed with your studies, solidifying a relationship with a research advisor, and so forth.
- Look into finding a summer research project (ideally with GSR support), a summer reading course, or some other activity to further the pursuit of your PhD. The time over this summer is an important opportunity to launch your research; take time to plan it carefully. Graduate students do not enroll in Summer classes except in special situations approved by the Staff Graduate Advisor.

Summer

- Register for Fall quarter courses.
- Accept Federal Work Study from the Financial Aid Office for the next academic year; email an attachment of the Work Study Referral form to the Staff Graduate Advisor in the Physics Department Office. It is available in mid-September.
- If you are a domestic student, take steps to establish the Reclassification Residency Procedure by the end of Spring Quarter to become a California resident for Fall Quarter. Go to: <http://www.registrar.ucsb.edu/>. Eligible students must establish residency their first year. *The student will be responsible for non-resident tuition if California residency is not established at the end of the first year.*
- Starting Fall 2015 for only the newly recruited students beginning in that quarter, the International Doctoral Recruitment Fellowship (IDRF) will pay for the Non-Resident Supplemental Tuition (NRST) to international doctoral students beyond their first year of residency who have not yet advanced to candidacy. The IDRF does not apply to current students who began graduate studies prior to Fall 2015. Visit this [link](#) for more information.

Outline of Academic Progress: Year 2

Quarterly

- ◆ Enroll in 12 units per quarter. *Do not drop below 12 units without approval from the graduate advisor.*
- ◆ Continue to enroll in courses that will meet the following course requirements:
Theoretical Students: 5 advanced graduate courses with a minimum grade of B. One of these courses should be in an area clearly distinct from your field.
Experimental Students: 3 advanced graduate courses with a minimum grade of B.
- ◆ Complete any core course requirements that were not met with a minimum grade of B in year one.

Fall

- ◆ Continue the process of establishing and solidifying your relationship with a research advisor. If you are still at an early stage of this process, consider enrolling again in the Graduate Seminar (Phys 260G) for information on current topics of research.
- ◆ **Domestic students:** Confirm that you have established residency and have not been assessed non-resident supplemental tuition on your BARC account. If you have not, contact the Resident Deputy to resolve the issue.

Winter

- ◆ Domestic students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 2. Please accept Federal Work Study support.
- ◆ Apply to the Graduate Division for Continuing Student Central Fellowships. Deadline: March. For more information, check:
<https://www.graddiv.ucsb.edu/central-campus-fellowships/new-continuing>

Spring

- In order to advance to candidacy on time in year 3, you should be well established with a research advisor at least by the end of the summer. Consult with your supervising Committee and the Faculty Graduate Advisor for guidance if you have concerns about this timetable.
- Work with the Faculty Graduate Advisor to make any desired changes in your Supervising Committee. Hold the 2nd Annual Update meeting with your committee to inform them of your progress. They will advise you on how to proceed with your studies, how to prepare to advance to candidacy during year 3, and so forth.
- ◆ Review procedure for advancing to candidacy next Winter.

Summer

- Accept Federal Work Study from the Financial Aid Office for the next academic year; email an attachment of the Work Study Referral form to the Staff Graduate Advisor in the Physics Department Office. It is available in mid-September.

- Register for Fall quarter courses.

Outline of Academic Progress: Year 3

Quarterly

- ◆ Complete an academic progress review with the Faculty Graduate Advisor.
- ◆ Continue to enroll in courses that will meet the following requirements:
Theoretical Students: 5 advanced graduate courses with a minimum grade of B. One of these courses should be in an area clearly distinct from your field.
Experimental Students: 3 advanced graduate courses with a minimum grade of B.
- ◆ In order to advance to candidacy on time, you should be well established with a research advisor by the start of year 3. If you have any concerns about this timeline, be sure to consult with your Supervising Committee and with the Faculty Graduate Advisor.

Fall

- ◆ *In preparation for advancing to candidacy by the end of the Spring quarter, discuss advancement with the Faculty Graduate Advisor and your research advisor.*
- ◆ Set up a meeting 4-6 weeks before your planned advancement and nominate your committee via [GradPoint](#) Students. It must be approved by the Graduate Dean before you can advance.

Winter

- ◆ Domestic students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 2. Please accept Federal Work Study support.
- ◆ Apply to the Graduate Division for Continuing Student Central Fellowships. Deadline: March. For more information, check:
<https://www.graddiv.ucsb.edu/central-campus-fellowships/new-continuing>
- Meet with Staff Graduate Advisor to prepare the required form for advancement. It is recommended that you meet with her at least 6 weeks prior to your planned exam.

Spring

- Advance to candidacy before the end of Spring quarter. Set up a meeting with the Staff Graduate Advisor to complete the necessary paperwork to advance.
- The advancement exam can take the place of this year's meeting of your Supervising Committee, but if so the committee must complete the Annual Update form.

Summer

- If you did not successfully advance to candidacy in Spring, retake the advancement exam. Unless you get a special exemption from the Faculty Graduate Advisor, you *must* pass this exam by the end of Summer.
- Register for Fall quarter.
- Accept Federal Work Study from the Financial Aid Office for the next academic year; email an attachment of the Work Study Referral form to the Staff Graduate Advisor in the Physics Department Office. It is available in mid-September.
- Be sure that you have held a meeting with your Supervising Committee at which the Annual Update form was completed. **The form must be submitted via DocuSign by**

July 15 in order for your employment paperwork to be processed for the coming Fall quarter. The Staff Graduate Advisor will email you instructions in Spring.

Outline of Academic Progress: Years 4+

- ◆ By the fourth year the majority of your course units will be in Phys 596 (Advanced Reading & Research) or Phys 599 (Dissertation Preparation). Physics 599 is reserved for the quarter that you defend and has a unit limit. Do not enroll in Phys 599, if you defend in the Summer Quarter.
- ◆ The final period of graduate study should be directed toward individual research and the preparation of your dissertation.

Winter

- Domestic students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 2. Please continue to accept Federal Work Study support.
- ◆ Apply to the Graduate Division for Continuing Student Central Fellowships. Deadline: March. For more information, check: <https://www.graddiv.ucsb.edu/funding-options>.

Spring/Summer

- ◆ Hold an Annual Update meeting with your Supervising Committee. Turn in the completed Annual Update form via DocuSign to the Staff Graduate Advisor by July 15 so that your employment paperwork can be processed for the coming fall. The Staff Graduate Advisor will send all graduate students the information and DocuSign forms to use.

Advising

All students who have not advanced to candidacy are required to meet with the Faculty Graduate Advisor (FGA) as requested by the advisor. All first-year students will meet with the FGA at the end of the Fall and Spring quarters. All second year students will meet with the FGA in the Winter quarter. All third-year students will meet with the FGA in the Fall quarter. The FGA will schedule additional meetings as necessary. Meetings with the FGA will be to discuss the students' progress to date, course selection, establishing a relationship with a research advisor, progress toward advancement, and other issues.

In addition, it is the student's responsibility to assemble a Supervising Committee (see below) to provide advice on how to proceed at each stage of your graduate studies. The student should hold an Annual Update meeting with this committee at least once a year, during which an Annual Update form will be completed. For first year graduate students, this meeting should occur during the Spring quarter. In later years, the student should consult with the chair of the committee to determine the best date for a meeting (probably Spring or Summer). The completed form is due by July 15.

The Supervising Committee

During the first year of graduate studies, the student should work with the Faculty Graduate Advisor to assemble a supervising committee of 3 faculty members.

One faculty member must agree to serve as chair. The chair, and at least one other committee member must hold at least a partial ladder faculty (tenure track, not adjunct or lecturer) appointment in the UCSB Physics Department. However, one member of the committee can be faculty from another department, adjunct faculty, etc., so long as this choice is approved by the Faculty Graduate Advisor. If this committee member becomes your primary research advisor, they will be listed as co-chair.

If the student wishes to explore working with a thesis advisor from outside the department the procedures for forming a supervisory committee are different. The student should start working with the advisor to identify a potential thesis topic. The student will form a committee whose chair and two other members are from the physics department. Besides being the advisory committee to the student, the goal of the supervisory committee is to determine if the proposed thesis topic warrants a doctoral degree in physics. Once the student has identified and discussed the thesis topic with the entire committee and gotten their approval, they should reach out to the faculty graduate advisor. The next step is to replace one committee member with a faculty from outside the department, that will be co-chair.

Note that an agreement to serve as chair of a supervising committee does not constitute a promise to become the student's research advisor. The student and prospective chair are encouraged to explicitly discuss their mutual expectations in this regard when the committee is formed.

The members of the committee and the choice of chair can be changed at any time, if the changes are approved by the Faculty Graduate Advisor and by the new members/chair of the committee. The Staff Graduate Advisor can provide you with the appropriate form. After advancement to candidacy, the supervising committee will consist of 3 members from the student's Dissertation Committee.

The regular Annual Update meeting with this committee is not an exam; it is informal and advisory in nature. However, holding this meeting is an official requirement. Students who do not turn in the completed Annual Update form to the Staff Graduate Advisor by July 15 may not be considered to be in good standing, and their employment paperwork for the coming Fall may not be processed. This may in turn result in financial penalties for the student.

Furthermore, in some cases, the Graduate Advisor may ask the Supervising Committee to hold a special meeting to review the student's progress and issue official recommendations to the department. The student will be notified at least two weeks in advance if such an official review is to occur. At the student's discretion, the Annual Update form can also be completed at such a review, so that it takes the place of the usual Annual Update meeting.

Please note that the Supervising Committee is approved by the Department. When you are ready to advance, you must formally establish your committee using the online system called [GradPoint Students](#) which must be approved by the department and the Graduate Dean. If you decide to alter your Committee after advancement, you must submit the revision via GradPoint Students and it must be approved by the department and the Graduate Dean. Please note that you cannot advance or graduate without a committee approved by the Graduate Dean.

The Annual Update Meeting

The regular Annual Update of the Supervising Committee is informal and advisory in nature. It is not an exam. First year graduate students should hold their meeting during Spring quarter. In later years, the student should consult with the chair of the committee to determine the best date for a meeting (probably Spring or early summer). However, the deadline for turning in the completed Annual Update form to the Staff Graduate Advisor is July 15. After establishing times and dates when the committee members are available, the student may contact the Staff Graduate Advisor for help in finding and booking an appropriate room.

At the meeting, the student will briefly (in 5-10 minutes) explain their progress to date, after which the committee and student will discuss future plans and make recommendations. The committee will generally also hold a short closed-door discussion during which the student is not present. Finally, the committee will work with the student to complete and sign an Annual Update form, which the student will return to the Staff Graduate Advisor.

In the first year, the student's summary should describe coursework completed to date, steps the student has taken toward finding a research advisor, and an overview of any research in which the student has participated thus far. The student should also propose a tentative plan for how they would like things to proceed over the next year, including sources of support (e.g. fellowship, GSR, TA, etc.). This tentative plan should be viewed as a starting point for a conversation with the committee who will help to refine the plan. Finally, the student is encouraged to report any difficulties or problems they have faced in their search for a research advisor and project and to solicit advice from the committee.

In succeeding years, the student's summary should focus on progress since the last annual meeting and on proposing a tentative plan through either advancement or completion of the dissertation as appropriate. Senior students may wish to present a more detailed description of their research. Nevertheless, the student is encouraged to keep their summary brief and to avoid giving a full research seminar unless specifically requested by the committee. The student should consult with the committee chair as to particular topics to be addressed. However, in all cases the student and committee should explicitly discuss plans for the student's future support (e.g. fellowship, GSR, TA, etc.).

Non-synchronous meetings: Students who have a solid research advisor, i.e., "Yes" on question 3 below, have the option to meet separately with each member of their committee rather than scheduling a group meeting, *only if all members of the committee agree to this procedure*. In this case, the student should meet first with the research advisor to complete the form, then discuss the answers with each other member of the committee and collect their signatures.

While the Annual Update Meeting is not an exam, it is an official requirement that must be completed by July 15 of each year. **The responsibility to schedule the Annual Update Meeting and to complete and submit the paperwork via DocuSign falls on the student, not the committee chair.** Students who do not complete this requirement are not considered to be in good standing. They may be placed on academic probation, and any GSR or TA appointments may be blocked until the meeting has been held and the Annual Update form has been turned in. If this continues for too long, it may result in financial penalties for the student.

Annual Update Form

This form is to be completed and signed at each Annual Update meeting. Non-synchronous meetings are allowed if all members and the student agree. The student must give a copy of the signed and completed form to the Staff Graduate Advisor by July 15. Attach additional pages as needed to answer the questions below. The student and committee members should initial or sign each additional page. Brief answers are fine. Longer answers are appreciated where the committee feels they will be of use to the graduate advisor.

Student: _____

Printed name	Signature	Today's Date
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1. When did the student begin graduate studies (e.g., Fall 2012): _____
2. Has the student completed all required coursework (including electives)? If not, give a tentative plan for its timely completion.
3. Does the student have a solid ongoing relationship with a research advisor? If so, with whom? If not, what steps should the student follow over the next year toward establishing and solidifying such a relationship?
4. What steps remain before the student can advance to candidacy (if not yet advanced) or to defend a dissertation (if already advanced)? Is the student making good progress?
5. **ATC & Defense dates:** Recall that advancement is required by the end of Spring quarter of the student's 3rd year and that a student who does not pass this exam must retake it by the end of Summer quarter. Recall also the department's 6 year normative time (from entry) for completing a PhD, and that failure to complete a PhD within 3 years of advancing places the student in so-called P3 status.

ATC date (if unadvanced, give estimate with confidence level, e.g., 80%):

Estimate Defense date with rough confidence level:

6. What financial support is expected between now and completion of the PhD? (E.g., what mix of fellowships, GSRs, and TAs).
7. Please note any additional concerns that the student or committee wish to record. The student and committee are also encouraged to contact the Faculty Graduate Advisor privately about concerns they do not wish to record on this form.

Chair: _____

Printed name	Signature	Date
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Member #2: _____

Printed name	Signature	Date

Member #3: _____

Printed name	Signature	Date
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Normative Time to Degree:

Normative time is the number of twelve-month years which a department's faculty consider to be a reasonable time for completion of a particular Ph.D. program by a full-time student who matriculates with no deficiencies. Normative time in Physics is 6 years. Normative time, however, is a departmental statement of ideals, not actual averages or individual possibilities. For this reason, some students will advance to candidacy and/or graduate before the normative time, and some will take longer. Students who require more time to advance or graduate will need to petition the Department for an extension to the degree deadline.

In the first year past normative time, the Graduate Division will place the student on "warning" status. The only penalty is that the student is not eligible for central funds. This means that they cannot receive Central Fellowships.

In the 2nd year past normative time, the Graduate Division will typically place the student on Academic Probation. While this does not appear on the student's final transcript, it does prohibit receipt of central funds or academic employment. However, Graduate Division states that exemptions for GSR employment will be granted on a regular basis.

After one year or more on probation, the department will be asked (quarterly) to recommend either continued employment or dismissal.

P3 Status:

Students more than 3 years past their advancement to candidacy who have not yet received their PhD are said to be in P3 status. UCSB does not receive funds from UC for such students. As a result, P3 students are not eligible for central funds (see above).

Most importantly: International students in P3 status must pay *full* non-resident tuition.

Probation and Dismissal Only the Dean of Graduate Division may dismiss a student from graduate standing. This is done on the recommendation of departmental faculty. Graduate students are required to maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.0 in all upper division and graduate courses. In addition, students are required to make continual progress towards the degree. Students who fail to meet either requirement may be placed on Academic Probation by the Graduate Division. Probation is intended to provide students whose performance is less than satisfactory a period of time in which to make up their deficiencies. The department and Graduate Division will notify students who are being placed on Academic Probation. The department will provide written notice to the student indicating the work that the student must complete in order to attain minimum standards and set a reasonable time limit within which that work must be completed.

The consequences of Academic Probation include loss of academic student employment and the corresponding benefits of that employment (payment of fees and health insurance).

Degree Requirements

Ph.D. Degree:

- Satisfy Departmental advancement to candidacy procedures including core course requirement and electives. (See the following section on Advancement to Candidacy in the Physics Department)
- Complete a minimum of 36 units of graduate course work, which consists of a program of study approved by the Supervising Committee.
- Pass Candidacy Exam – proposal and defense of dissertation topic (See Advancement to Candidacy Procedure).
- Submit and orally defend the dissertation.
- Students must be registered and in residence for six quarters to satisfy residency requirements.
- International Students must satisfy the requirements for English as a Second Language (there is no foreign language requirement).

Selecting a Research Advisor

The choice of a Research Advisor is one of the most important decisions you will make as a graduate student. The decision should be made by the third year, and it is reasonable to devote significant thought to who your advisor will be.

There are three formal mechanisms in Physics for distribution of research information to help you with this choice: The Departmental website; the seminar series, in particular the Graduate Seminar 260G; and the special topics seminars and brown bag lunches coordinated by research groups; and the Faculty Graduate Advisor.

The 260G series of short, informal talks are designed for the faculty to inform graduate students about their respective research. First year students are required to attend Graduate Seminar (260G) because this is perhaps the only time students will be able to obtain a comprehensive idea of the overall breadth and activity of the work in the Physics Department.

Following these seminars, it is in the student's best interest to meet individually with each faculty member to discuss projects and areas of research. It is also a good idea to attend the department colloquia to find out more about research groups at UCSB. Meeting the faculty and attending seminars is essential to selecting a Faculty Advisor.

You should also pursue informal information gathering mechanisms. Talk to existing students and postdocs in prospective groups to learn what the working environment is really like and what financial and other support can be expected. Your more senior grad student colleagues are a wealth of information. Contact the Faculty Graduate Advisor for advice if you have difficulties in finding an appropriate research advisor.

Advancing to Candidacy in the Physics Department

Physics graduate students must advance to candidacy by the end of Spring Quarter of their third year. A description of what the advancement exam entails and how to prepare for it follows. The Ph.D. program is structured such that your basic coursework will be completed in the first two years, giving you the foundation necessary to focus on directed research in your field beginning in year three. The objective of the advancement exam is not a measure of your research. Rather, the purpose is to determine whether you have gained sufficient knowledge of your particular field and whether you are progressing at an appropriate rate toward completion of your PhD.

The Department regulates advancement to candidacy. When a Ph.D. candidate completes the oral candidacy examination, the Ph.D. form II is completed by the Staff Graduate Advisor and forwarded to the Graduate Division. **Note: Students must be registered during the quarter that the candidacy exam is taken unless it is taken during summer quarter.**

To be eligible for advancement, the student must have registered for three consecutive quarters, have a GPA of at least 3.0 with no incomplete grades, and satisfy the Department advancement requirements. These requirements include completion of the core courses and electives. (Three electives are required for observational/experimental students and five electives are required for theoretical students for the regular Physics PhD. For the Astrophysics Emphasis, the elective requirement is two for observational/experimental students and four for theoretical students. For theory students, at least one elective must be in an area clearly distinct from your field.) All courses and electives must be taken for a grade and passed with a grade B or higher.

After passing the ATC exam (see below), the student pays a \$50 advancement to candidacy fee to the BARC Office (SAASB 1212). The student is then formally advanced to candidacy. Note that the student does not advance until the fee is paid.

Advancement to candidacy has several benefits:

1. The candidate is eligible for faculty privileges at the library. To receive a new library card, the candidate takes a validated receipt from the Graduate Division to the library.
2. Beginning the quarter following advancement to candidacy, foreign students will receive a 100% reduction of the nonresident tuition for nine quarters. If the degree is not completed by the end of the ninth quarter, nonresident tuition will again be assessed at the full rate.

Advancement Exam Deadline:

All students must take the exam by the end of Spring Quarter of the third year. If the exam is not passed, it must be retaken by the end of Summer Quarter of the third year. Students who do not take the exam on schedule and have not received an extension are subject to withdrawal of financial support by the department or dismissal from the program on the grounds of not making adequate progress toward the degree. Students who fail the exam for the second time will be dismissed from the program on the same grounds.

If a student fails the exam, the advancement committee must provide a written account of what they found to be lacking, along with suggestions for how to remedy the problems. The student must then retake the exam by the end of spring quarter of the third year.

When you are ready to advance, you must formally establish your committee using the online system called [GradPoint Students](#) which must be approved by the department and the Graduate Dean. If you decide to alter your Committee after advancement, you must submit the revision via GradPoint Students and it must be approved by the department and the Graduate Dean.

Even if a Supervising Committee is established, the Committee must be submitted and approved. Changes made via the departmental Contract to Create or Change Supervisor Committee are not approved by the Graduate Council.

Extension to ATC Exam Deadline:

An extension to the Spring quarter deadline may be granted due to personal, medical or family circumstances, or to an approved research related absence that sets the student back in their academic progress. The Faculty Graduate Advisor and the faculty mentor/research advisor must be informed of the circumstance when it arises and would grant an extension in a written academic progress report outlining the extended advancement timeline.

The Nature of the Exam:

Students should demonstrate that they understand the overall situation in the field: what are the established results and what are the most important problems that are currently being addressed? Students should also propose a possible line of research and justify its potential significance.

To ensure that the student and the committee agree on what constitutes an acceptably broad definition of *field*, the student will submit a brief synopsis (see ATC synopsis form below) at the time the exam is scheduled. The synopsis must be approved by both the chair of the committee and the Wiseperson. Advancement exams are closed exams, which means that only the student and the committee members can be present. (The thesis defense, by contrast, is an open exam.)

Students should give a presentation that is not more than 30 minutes in length. At least one third should be devoted to reviewing the overall situation in your field.

Students will be evaluated on whether:

- a) the presentation addresses the underlying physics issues of the field and shows a reasonable understanding of the important problems;
- b) the student is able to respond adequately to questions from the committee;
- c) the student is progressing at an appropriate rate toward completion of a PhD.

Students must do well in all areas in order to pass.

The Advancement Committee:

Your committee must include at least three ladder (tenure track) UCSB faculty members (not lecturers, adjuncts, etc). Your committee chairperson and at least one other member must hold ladder faculty appointments in Physics. Other members can be from outside the physics department or be non-ladder faculty. If your primary research advisor is not Physics ladder faculty, they will be considered a co-chair. If you are a theorist, you will need at least two theorists and one experimentalist on your committee. If you are an experimentalist, you will need at least two experimentalists and one theorist. For detailed information, please visit <http://www.graddiv.ucsb.edu/academic/committees>.

One of the members of your advancement committee will play the role of Wiseperson. This needs to be a Physics ladder faculty member, and cannot be your thesis advisor. The Wiseperson is usually the committee member outside your area of study. For example, if you are a theorist, your Wiseperson will be the experimentalist on the committee.

Exceptions to the above policy can be granted only by the Graduate Division. If you believe such an exception is in order, be sure to allow at least six weeks for such an exception to be processed. You should also have a back-up plan in mind in case it is not approved. If you wish to request an exception, contact the Staff Graduate Advisor for details on how to proceed.

The committee that administers the exam will (normally) be the same committee that guides the student's research and administers the final dissertation defense. At the time of the advancement to candidacy exam, the committee will either approve the dissertation topic, or, if there is not enough information to do that, the committee will arrange for a future meeting of the Supervising Committee to decide the question.

The Role of the Wiseperson:

A Wiseperson is present at every exam to ensure the appropriate level of difficulty. The Wiseperson is a regular committee member and advises the committee on how the student compares with others who have been examined. The Wiseperson can require the exam to be redone if he/she feels that the exam does not conform to the guidelines given above. The Wiseperson also helps in drafting the ATC synopsis form in consultation with the student and the thesis advisor.

ATC Synopsis Form

Instructions:

This form is to be completed during a joint meeting of the student, committee chair, and wiseperson. ***Contact the Staff Graduate Advisor for the DocuSign version of this form.***

It should be signed and returned to the Staff Graduate Advisor ***at least one week before*** the ATC exam. It is preferable if this form is signed one month ahead of the exam in order to help prepare for it. Any concerns from the committee should be addressed ***immediately***.

The wiseperson will lead the committee through a brief review of this synopsis during a closed-door discussion held at the beginning of the ATC exam.

Field of Research:

(It may be useful to define both a broad field and a more specific subfield, which will be the main focus.)

Scope of Presentation:

Scope of Possible Questions:

Signatures

ATC Candidate: _____ Date: _____

Committee Chair: _____ Date: _____

Wise person: _____ Date: _____

Advancement to Candidacy (ATC) Checklist

This checklist summarizes the steps in setting up an ATC exam.

Note 1: Departmental policy requires students to advance by the end of Spring quarter of their 3rd year. Contact the Faculty Graduate Advisor if you need an extension.

Note 2: UC-wide policy requires students to complete their Ph.D within 3 years of advancing to candidacy. Students failing to meet this requirement enter [P3 status](#).

Fall quarter of your third year:

____ 1. Discuss ATC with your research advisor and Faculty Graduate Advisor to make sure that the Spring quarter will be right for you to advance, keeping in mind both Note 1 and Note 2 above. Consult with your advisor as to whom to include on the committee. **Remember:** If you are a theorist, you will need two theorists and one experimentalist on your committee. If you are an experimentalist, you will need two experimentalists and one theorist. Your committee must be made up of at least three ladder (tenure track) UCSB faculty members (not lecturer, adjunct, etc.).

Winter quarter of your third year:

____ 2. Read the ATC section of the Physics Graduate Handbook.

____ 3. Poll your committee to find a two-hour block of time during Spring quarter during which to hold your exam. Schedule the room using this [link](#).

____ 4. Meet with Staff Graduate Advisor to give her the names of committee members, forward any course waivers, and area of study. Ask her to do your unit count in preparation of your advancement. You will nominate your Committee using the GradPoint Students [portal](#). Set up the meeting with her 4-6 weeks before your exam. If exceptions are required for your committee members, allow at least six weeks for the Dean's approval. You cannot advance until you get confirmation of the Graduate Dean's approval.

____ 5. Ask Staff Graduate Advisor for the DocuSign of the Synopsis form. Meet with the wiseperson and ATC committee chair to complete the synopsis form.

Spring quarter of your third year:

____ 6. At least **2 weeks before** the exam is to be held, contact the Staff Graduate Advisor to receive additional instructions. Complete the Doctoral Degree Form II via DocuSign. The Staff Graduate Advisor will set up the Form II via DocuSign. This is the form that the committee will sign after your exam to confirm whether or not you passed the exam.

One or two days before the exam: Remind each member of the committee as to the time and date of the exam.

____ 7. Complete the exam and confirm that the Form II was completed via DocuSign by your committee members and the Faculty Graduate Advisor. You will not advance, if this form is not completed.

____ 8. After advancing to candidacy you are required to pay a \$50 advancement to candidacy fee to the Billing/Cashier's Office.

Master of Arts Degree in Physics

Current graduate students are eligible for the MA degree when they have met the following requirements:

- Passed the Advancement to Candidacy Exam
- Completed the core course requirements with a minimum grade of B
- Completed a minimum of 36 units in graduate level physics courses. These may include core course units, and 12 of the 36 units may be from 596 (directed reading and research) or 599 (dissertation preparation) courses.

When the above requirements have been met, students should set up a meeting with the Staff Graduate Advisor to set up the DocuSign of the Change of Degree Status Petition indicating they wish to add the Master's Degree objective and remain in the Ph.D. objective. Meet with the Staff Graduate Advisor to set up the DocuSign form after your exam and to confirm all steps have been completed. A \$20 petition fee must be paid to the Billing Office (this is in addition to the \$50 advancement to candidacy fee). There is an additional \$19 charge for mailing the Master's diploma. If you apply for a MA degree, please notify the Staff Graduate Advisor so that she can be sure the process is completed.

Terminal Master's Degree

Students who decide not to complete the Ph.D. program may leave with the terminal Master's degree in Physics upon completing the following requirements:

- Passed the Oral Master's Exam
- Completed the core course requirements with an average grade of B and a minimum grade of B in at least 5 of the 7 core courses (6 of 8 for the Astrophysics Emphasis).
- Completed a minimum of 36 quarter-units of work, with a minimum of 32 units of graduate-level courses. These may include core course units, and 12 of the 36 units may be from 596 (directed reading and research) or 599 (dissertation preparation) courses.

The oral master's exam is similar to the advancement to candidacy exam in the sense that students must have a committee of three Physics Department faculty members, one of whom will chair the committee. A Wiseperson is necessary and will be one of the three committee members. The object of the Master's exam is to establish that the student has acquired sufficient knowledge of the material covered in the core graduate courses. While the purpose of the advancement exam is to determine whether the student has sufficient knowledge of physics to begin research in a particular area, the objective of the master's exam is to ensure that the student will leave the program with a solid understanding of the material covered in the following areas: Statistical Mechanics, Classical Mechanics, Quantum Mechanics, Electromagnetic Theory. The master's exam lasts for approximately 1.5 hours and students should be prepared to answer questions and give examples on these subjects.

Students who take the terminal master's degree must complete the Graduate Student Petition indicating they are adding the master's degree and removing the Ph.D. objective. They must then pay a \$20 petition fee to the Billing Office, and an additional \$19 processing fee for the mailing of the diploma. In either of the above cases, any course with an I or U grade must have a grade assigned or, if allowable, dropped, before the degree may be awarded.

Registration and Coursework

Graduate Student Status/GPA Requirement

Maintaining graduate student status requires paying all fees, registering each quarter, maintaining an overall GPA of **3.0** and maintaining timelines set by the department and Graduate Division for obtaining a research advisor, advancing to candidacy, and graduation. Failure to maintain academic standards results in probation or dismissal; failure to pay fees and register (unless on approved leave of absence) results in lapse of status as a graduate student. Only work taken when in good standing as a graduate student may be counted toward a graduate degree.

Have you:

- Registered for 12 units?
- Paid all necessary fees?
- Maintained a GPA of 3.0 or higher?
- Made significant progress?

Students who fail to pay fees and register for classes by the third week of classes each quarter lapse status as graduate students and must either [petition](#) for reinstatement or reapply for admission.

Registration as a graduate student in the Spring Quarter maintains graduate student status until the beginning of Fall Quarter. A domestic student who registered in spring may therefore take examinations or file a dissertation during Summer without additional fees. A student who did **not** register Spring Quarter will owe a filing fee to take the terminal master's examination or file a thesis dissertation. If a student who did not register for Spring Quarter wishes to take their Candidacy Exam during the Summer, they must register for Summer Sessions and pay all Summer Sessions fees. Go to: www.summer.ucsb.edu for more information. **International students** who wish to file in the summer must file a [Summer Filing Leave of Absence](#). Set up a meeting with the Staff Graduate Advisor for detailed information.

Registration and Full-time Status

For purposes of reporting graduate enrollment to UC Systemwide, registration in 12 units is considered full-time status. **Students should not drop below 12 units.** If there are extenuating circumstances, please contact the Faculty Graduate Advisor.

There is no upper limit on the number of units a graduate student may take in their graduate courses, but it is recommended that students not exceed 12 units per quarter when employed. If you would like to take courses outside your field of interest, unrelated to your physics degree, please check with your advisor to confirm that the extra courses will not interfere with your academic or research progress. It is advised that students who have not yet advanced to candidacy take at least one 200-level course per quarter. Almost all the 500-level courses will be graded S/U only. There is no upper limit to the number of 500-level units students may take, except for Phys 599.

Part-Time Graduate Status

At present there is no provision for part-time graduate status: *All graduate students are assessed full fees no matter how many units they take.* Students who are physically elsewhere are considered “in residence” at UCSB if they pay fees and register for classes. Students doing research outside the state of California may be eligible for fee reductions through *in absentia* registration. Please see Graduate Division for more information on <https://www.graddiv.ucsb.edu/forms/absentia>.

Course Units and Employment

If an employed student is enrolled in 12 units and wishes to drop a class toward the end of the quarter due to poor grades or any other reason, they may not drop the course if doing so will bring them below 8 units. Falling below 8 units may result in loss of fee remission for tuition, non-resident supplemental tuition, if applicable, health insurance and student employment, and may require the student to pay the university back for fees, tuition, and even salary received earlier in the quarter.

Leaves of Absence

Continuous registration is expected of all graduate students with the exception of Summer quarter. Leaves of Absence may be granted under special circumstances and must be approved by the Faculty Graduate Advisor prior to petitioning the Graduate Division. Please note that a [Personal Leave of Absence](#) differs from a [Filing Leave of Absence](#). In either case, set up a meeting with the Staff Graduate Advisor for assistance with processing.

Department Requirements for Registration

Graduate students are to be enrolled for a minimum of 12 units per quarter. **First year Ph.D. students** must enroll in the course schedule suggested by the graduate advisor except in special circumstances. After the first quarter, the 12 units may be made up of core courses, other academic courses, 596 (Directed reading and research) or 599 units (thesis/dissertation research and preparation) to maintain full-time status. Be sure to use your research advisor’s instructor number listed in the *Schedule of Classes* to register for courses requiring instructor numbers and 500 level courses. All first year students must register for the Physics seminar course, Physics 260G every quarter. It is important to take all core and elective courses as a letter grade. It is especially important to do so your first quarter, even if you receive waivers, in order to establish a GPA.

Miscellaneous Registration Information All information, including deadlines, is listed in the front of the *Schedule of Classes* online [here](#); please refer to it often.

- Continuing students register in the middle of the current quarter for the following quarter (including Fall). For Fall, the deadline is usually in August.
- **New students and those returning from a leave of absence register shortly before the quarter begins.**

Fees need not be paid until the first day of classes. Don't forget to register! Students who do not register by the deadline will be assessed a \$50 late registration fee.

- Schedule adjustment takes place during the first week of the quarter. Students may add and drop courses without a fee. Confirm the dates [here](#). Graduate Students have until the **15th day of instruction** to add classes to their schedule without approval from the Graduate Division. After this deadline, Schedule Adjustment Petitions signed by the Dept. Chair, Instructor, and Faculty Graduate Advisor are required to be sent to the Graduate Division and you will be assessed a \$3.00 fee per course added and/or dropped. Set up a DocuSign form with the Staff Graduate Advisor. Please see the following link for calendar and deadline information:
<https://registrar.sa.ucsb.edu/calendars/calendars-deadlines/academic-calendars/academic-calendar-for-2024-2025>
- Classes may be added and dropped via GOLD by using add approval codes that are issued by instructors. If after the deadline, Graduate Division approval is required. See this [link](#) for information.

The Fly America Act (a warning about travel reimbursement): In the course of your graduate studies you may engage in international travel to conferences, summer schools, or for research. Most of the funding sources that might reimburse you for such expenses come from the U.S. Federal government and are subject to the Fly American Act of the U.S. Congress. Go to: <https://www.gsa.gov/policy-regulations/policy/travel-management-policy/fly-america-act>. This means that a U.S. Flag air carrier must be used if at all possible (even if they are significantly more expensive than non-U.S. Flag air carriers). If you book a ticket on a non-U.S. flag air carrier, it may not be possible to reimburse you. It is therefore critical that you discuss this with your advisor, or with the departmental financial staff, before booking your ticket. [Here](#) is additional information on Travel Grants.

Petitions

Leaves of absence - \$20.00 Students leave school for all kinds of reasons and for varying lengths of time. Those who seek and receive approved leaves of absence are guaranteed that their department will take them back when they are ready to return. Those who simply drop out will have to reapply and be evaluated with new applicants should they decide to return and register.

Continuous registration is expected of all graduate students, except for Summer Quarter. Leaves of Absence may be granted under special circumstances and must be approved by the Faculty Graduate Advisor prior to petitioning the Graduate Division.

Students should think carefully about the timing of leave requests. A “student” is one who pays fees and registers. Persons on leave are not, technically speaking, students. Student loans, visas, university housing, access to career and counseling services, student health, financial aid, etc., are either unavailable or available only on fee-for-service bases to unregistered persons. See the Graduate Division [website](#) for ramifications of taking a leave. Meet with the Staff Graduate Advisor to set up the DocuSign form.

Returning from leave To return from a leave of absence, the student notifies the Department and Graduate Division in writing of his/her intent to return approximately 4 weeks before the beginning of the quarter in which s/he wishes to register. This action triggers the preparation of registration and billing materials. To register, students returning from leave follow instructions for “new and returning” students in the *Schedule of Classes*.

Reinstatement from lapsed status Students who fail to pay fees and/or to register by the third week of the quarter lose student status. They may petition for reinstatement if their lapse was for three quarters or less. For lapses of longer than three quarters, students must reapply for admission. Re-application is not a guarantee of re-admission. Graduate advisors will evaluate a reinstatement petition with the same care they give new applications. Petitions for reinstatement are available at:

<https://www.graddiv.ucsb.edu/academic/forms-petitions/lapsed-status-reinstatement>.

Withdrawal Leaving the university after the quarter begins constitutes “withdrawal.” Students must file a withdrawal petition with the Registrar or all the classes in which they registered will be recorded as “F” grades. In emergencies where students cannot process petitions for themselves, the Dean of Students Office will handle withdrawals. Call ext. x3176. Early in the quarter, speed is important to assure maximum refund of fees. If a student intends to return to UCSB in subsequent quarters, the student can file a leave of absence petition to make returning easier. Contact Academic Affairs, ext. x2559, in the Graduate Division to discuss timing and strategies.

Drop/add & change of grading option - \$3.00 Adjustments to a student’s schedule are made by GOLD or by petitions. Visit this [link](#) for more information. During the first week or two of classes, schedule adjustments are made without charge. After the 15th day, the fee applies.

Graduate students may petition to change grading options or to drop classes up until the last day of classes. Classes may be added until the 15th day of instruction. From those deadlines until grades are posted, students may still petition but must seek the Dean of Graduate Division’s

approval in addition to the usual approvals. Once grades are posted, retroactive changes to the permanent record require Graduate Council approval.

Incompletes Students must file a petition in the Registrar's office to receive an Incomplete grade. If this petition is not on file, and an instructor submits an "I" grade, the Registrar's computer will enter the grade as "F." Automatic F's are permanent scars on the student's record and should be avoided when possible. Submitting no grade at all will result in a blank space on the transcript, but not in an I or an F. After one quarter, a NC turns to an F or U.

Incompletes convert to F's at the end of the quarter following the original class, unless the instructor submits a grade to the Registrar. An instructor may extend the Incomplete for additional quarters by requesting the extension in writing directly to the Registrar's office.

Degrees are not awarded to students carrying Incompletes. When a student lifts an Incomplete while on leave or during summer, without registering again, the Graduate Division is unaware that they should initiate another degree check. Students who are through with course work, but carrying Incompletes, must inform the Graduate Division when they wish another degree check to be carried out.

UCSB Extension credit Only Extension courses approved in advance and taken while a student is in graduate standing will be accepted for graduate credit. The student must petition before enrollment for approval and then petition again for transfer of credit when the class is completed. The second petition must be accompanied by an Extension transcript showing the grade earned. Please contact extension x4200 for details on fees.

Transfer of credit - \$20.00 Upper division and graduate courses may be transferred to UCSB if the student was in a graduate program when the courses were completed. With approval from the Physics Department and the Graduate Division, up to 8 quarter units of credits for courses completed with a grade of B or better may be transferred from an accredited college other than another branch of the University of California. Up to 12 quarter units may be transferred from another UC campus. Such transferred units will be treated as Pass/Not Pass, upper division units, and will not be computed into the UCSB grade point average. Units counted for a degree awarded by another institution are not transferable.

No credit will be allowed for any course taken as an undergraduate or as a graduate in non-degree status, nor will credit toward an advanced degree be given for courses completed in a teaching credential or translator-interpreter program before the student was admitted to a degree program. For example, you will not receive credit for any waived courses.

After students have been in residence at UCSB for at least one quarter, they may petition to transfer credit under the limitations described above. Before approving a transfer of credit, the Graduate Advisor should be satisfied that the courses being transferred are in fact equivalent to the department's own offerings, particularly if they are substitutions for required or core courses.

Intercampus Exchange Program for Graduate Students (IEPGS)

Occasionally UCSB graduate students wish to study temporarily on another UC campus. If a student desires to take a course not offered at UCSB, wishes to study under the guidance of a specialist in residence at another UC campus, or needs to have continuing access to library holdings or facilities not available at UCSB, s/he may apply to the Intercampus Exchange Program. Approvals are required from the department chairs and the graduate deans on both campuses. Applications are available in the Graduate Division.

Separate applications are required for each quarter and must be filed with the Graduate Division at least four weeks before the beginning of the quarter in which the student wishes to make the exchange.

The student pays fees at UCSB and files registration materials at both campuses. This procedure maintains academic residence at UCSB even though the student is not physically present. Classes taken on the other campus appear on the UCSB transcript, and are figured into the UCSB grade point average. Ordinarily, the Graduate Division will not approve an intercampus exchange petition until the student has completed at least one quarter satisfactorily on this campus.

Go to <https://www.graddiv.ucsb.edu/forms/intercamp-ed-abroad-and-cross> for more information.

Finishing

Degree checks

Ph.D. The Graduate Division initiates degree checks for Ph.D. students when the student turns in a dissertation and/or when the department notifies them on Ph.D. form III that a student has defended the dissertation.

Incompletes Except for “thesis preparation” or “dissertation preparation” units, which are obviously completed when the document is accepted, *no Incomplete grade may appear on the transcript of a graduate degree award*. Lifting Incompletes in future quarters sometimes causes problems with fees, and will not automatically trigger a second degree check. Students with Incompletes must persist until they are sure the degree is awarded, since at present there is no fail-safe mechanism to initiate another degree check.

Fee status A student must be in a fee relationship (i.e., either registered or paying the filing fee) with the university the quarter s/he finishes all degree requirements. Fees paid for one quarter cover activities undertaken until the next quarter begins. Payment of Spring fees cover summer up until Fall quarter begins.

Degree status Degrees are granted four times a year, the last day of each quarter including summer session. The student must have finished all requirements by the final day of the quarter in order to get a degree dated that quarter. A dissertation filed between quarters (in late August, or during Christmas break, for example) will not cost the student additional fees if s/he was enrolled the previous quarter; but the degree will be dated as of the end of the next quarter.

Thesis and dissertation preparation

Acceptable format for theses and dissertations is outlined in The Filing Guide available online at the Graduate Division website (www.graddiv.ucsb.edu). Please contact the Graduate Division for additional information at gradacademics@graddiv.ucsb.edu or at 805-893-2277.

Deadline problems Students who are pushing hard to file a thesis or dissertation by the end of a particular quarter should be encouraged to set up a meeting with the Graduate Division ahead of time to be sure the format is acceptable.

Students who miss the end of the quarter [filing deadline](#) by even a day will be placed on the next quarter’s degree list. If requested, the Graduate Division will provide a letter certifying the actual date of completion of requirements and guaranteeing award as of the next date.

Graduation ceremony The Graduate Division’s graduation ceremony is one of seven coordinated by representatives of the colleges and the Chancellor’s office. It is traditional for a student’s PhD thesis advisor to accompany the student at the ceremony and join the Chancellor in placing the hood regalia as a symbol of the bestowed degree. Students are eligible to participate or “walk” in the June ceremony even if they have not yet completed all of the requirements for the degree, provided that both they and their departments really expect them to complete all requirements within the near future. Visit this [link](#) for more information.

Diplomas and transcripts After the Graduate Division finishes a degree check, it notifies the Registrar, who posts the degree to the transcript and orders diplomas. Degree checks and posting

take 6-8 weeks from the end of the quarter. Students wishing to order transcripts showing the degree awarded should mark their order form “hold for posting of degree.”

As part of the degree check process, the Graduate Division notifies the student through GOLD of the degree awarded and sends an order form by which the student can inform the Registrar where to send the diploma when it arrives, several months into the future. There is a \$19.00 processing fee. Students who are staying in the Santa Barbara area may pick up their diplomas in person from the Registrar’s office.

UCSB Physics Department Graduate Student Handbook

Finances

Tuition, Fees and Health Insurance

Tuition: Domestic Students (Citizens and Permanent Residents of the US)

All students who are not California residents are charged non-resident supplemental tuition, currently \$5,034 per quarter. In most cases, the Physics Department provides a one-year tuition fellowship to first year graduate students who do not have an external tuition fellowship. First year domestic students must take the necessary steps to establish California residency during their first year so that they will not be charged tuition in following years. The Department will not pay tuition for domestic students beyond the first year. Students with central fellowships from the UC Regents and from government agencies such as NSF and NDSEG should be aware that these fellowships also will not pay tuition for domestic students after the first year, and that some fellowships have a cap on the amount of fees they will cover. Check your fellowship for details.

Domestic students must begin to establish California residency as soon as they arrive in Santa Barbara and follow the procedures for establishing California residency outlined on the Registrar's Office webpage (<https://registrar.sa.ucsb.edu/>).

In the spring quarter preceding the 2nd year domestic students must complete a Statement of Legal Residence (SLR), which is available on the Registrar's website, and submit it to the Residency Office by the application deadline in early September.

Tuition: International Students

International students are not eligible for California residency. Starting Fall 2015, the International Doctoral Recruitment Fellowship (IDRF) will pay for the Non-Resident Supplemental Tuition (NRST) to international doctoral students beyond their first year of residency who have not yet advanced to candidacy. The IDRF applies only to newly recruited graduate students who began their graduate studies in Fall 2015 or later. Please contact the Staff Graduate Advisor for details.

However, upon advancement to candidacy, the tuition for international students will be reduced by 100% for three years provided the student maintains continuous enrollment and progress toward the Ph.D. degree. For newly recruited international students starting in Fall 2015, after a year, an international student is able to establish residency. Please contact Jennifer Farrar for more information. This does not apply to current graduate students who entered prior to Fall 2015.

For this reason, it is particularly important that international students are aware of the Departmental advancement to candidacy deadline and that they take steps to ensure that they have advanced by the winter quarter of the third year.

Fees: Domestic and International Students

All students are assessed fees which are separate from tuition. The fees are itemized at this [link](#).

Fees and TAs:

Students employed as a TA at 25% or more will have partial fee remission which is payment of GSHIP (insurance) and in-state tuition paid for them as a benefit of the TA appointment. This

offset does not include payment of non-resident supplemental tuition. Other fees such as the Collaborate Student Technology Fee are not covered by the department. It is the responsibility of the student.

Fees and GSRs:

Students employed as a GSR at 35% or more will have the GSHIP (insurance), in-state tuition and non-resident supplemental tuition, paid for them as a benefit of the GSR appointment. Other fees such as the Collaborate Student Technology Fee are not covered by the department. It is the responsibility of the student. They are still encouraged to fill out the FAFSA by the March 2nd deadline and accept work study support.

Health Insurance:

All students must have evidence of being covered by Health Insurance while enrolled at UCSB. Upon enrollment, graduate students will be covered by the UC Student Health Insurance Plan (UCSHIP) offered through UCSB Student Health and charged the health insurance fee on their billing statement. Go to the following link for current information:

<http://studenthealth.sa.ucsb.edu/gauchos-health-insurance>. **If a student maintains insurance from another provider, they must provide the UCSB Health Insurance office evidence of the other insurance and sign a UCSHIP waiver form every quarter.** Visit <http://studenthealth.sa.ucsb.edu/insurance/waiving-unwaiving-health-insurance> for more information.

Students who are employed as a TA at 25% or more, or as a GSR at 25% or more, and who do not have an external fellowship which covers the cost of health insurance, will have the UCSHIP health insurance paid for them as a benefit of their student employment. Students who choose to maintain another insurance provider and waive the GSHIP will not be reimbursed for the cost of their other health insurance; they will simply have chosen to decline the GSHIP benefit.

UCSHIP is automatically paid for TAs and GSRs at the beginning of each quarter. Spring quarter health insurance covers students throughout the spring and summer quarters provided the student was enrolled in a minimum of 8 units and was employed as a TA or GSR during spring quarter.

Students who lapse registration status are at risk of losing their health insurance coverage for the quarter during which the lapse occurred.

GSHIP information is available [here](#). For specific information on health insurance coverage questions, contact Student Health directly [here](#).

Graduate Student Employment

Students who are making satisfactory academic progress are:

- Maintaining a minimum 3.0 GPA.
- On track to complete the Departmental and Graduate Division requirements in a timely manner. These include:
- Completion of the core courses within the first two years with a minimum grade of B.
- Foreign Students: passing the written and oral English Language Placement Exams by the end of the first year.
- Securing a research advisor and advancing to candidacy by the winter quarter of the 3rd year.
- Completion of the elective course requirements (3 for experimentalists, 5 for theorists) within the first 5 years with a minimum grade of B (no S/U grades will be permitted unless that is the only grading option for the approved elective).
- Successfully defending the written dissertation by the 6th year of graduate study. (If a student entered the program with a master's degree, the student is expected to defend by year 5.)

Satisfactory TA Evaluations

Another condition of the TA appointment is satisfactory TA evaluations. Students should always review their TA evaluations at the end of each quarter. Evaluations will be emailed to you after each quarter once they are processed by Instructional Development.

Students who receive consistently negative evaluations will be asked to review the comments and take steps to address the problems. If the student continues to receive negative evaluations the following quarter, the Department may require them to attend TA training again the following Fall quarter and/or may not employ the student as a TA for the Department in following quarters.

Academic Student Employee Maximum Working Hours

Academic Student Employees (GSRs and TAs) may not exceed 50% time during the academic year. In special circumstances, domestic students may petition the Department to work up to 75% time maximum for one quarter. The Faculty Graduate Advisor and the student's advisor must approve of the additional employment. **If the student applies for employment outside of Physics, the employing department must get approval from the Faculty Graduate Advisor via the [Employment Eligibility form](#) before hiring the student. International students may not exceed 50% during Fall, Winter or Spring Quarters.** Over the summer, all graduate students can work up to 100% time with approval from the department.

Salaries and Benefits: Teaching Assistants (TAs)

TAs are hired by the Department and supervised by the Instructor, Academic Coordinator and the Staff Graduate Advisor. TAs are generally hired in 50% appointments (20 hours/week), but occasionally are placed in one 25% appointment (10 hours/week) or two 25% appointments for a total of 50%. For current salary scales, please visit:

<https://ap.ucsb.edu/compensation.and.benefits/ucsb.salary.scales/18.pdf>. Your TA offer letter will indicate the salary point and percentage of your position.

The benefits of a TA appointment include:

- Payment of GSHIP (Health Insurance)
- Payment of mandatory tuition

Salary and Benefits: Graduate Student Researcher (GSR)

GSRs are hired by a faculty member (usually the student's Research Advisor) and are supervised by that person. GSRs are generally hired in 50% appointments (20 hours/week). The current salary scales are listed at

<https://ap.ucsb.edu/compensation.and.benefits/ucsb.salary.scales/22.pdf>. You will receive a GSR offer letter which indicates your step and percentage of your position.

The benefits of a 50% GSR appointment include:

- Payment of GSHIP (Health Insurance)
- Payment of all mandatory tuition
- Payment of mandatory non-supplemental tuition

In the event the Department does not have enough TA positions available in any given quarter to employ all the students requesting a TA appointment, the appointments will be decided by the Vice Chair.

All Academic Student Employees (GSRs, TAs, Graders) MUST be enrolled in a minimum of 8 units per quarter in order to maintain employment.

Central Fellowships and Other Funding

Information on central fellowships may be found on the Graduate Division web page at: <http://www.graddiv.ucsb.edu/financial/central-campus-fellowships>. Please contact the Staff Graduate Advisor for more information.

Taxation of Graduate Fellowships and Assistantships

Please visit this [link](#) for information on taxes.

**UCSB Physics Department
Graduate Student Handbook**

International Students

International Students

ENGLISH FOR MULTILINGUAL STUDENTS (EMS) REQUIREMENTS

English for Multilingual Students (EMS) Policies—An Overview

The Graduate Council's policy for students for whom English is not the native language states that they must satisfy proficiency requirements in spoken and written English for the purposes of research and communication with colleagues before they will be awarded a degree at UCSB.

TA Language Evaluation

International and permanent resident TA's for whom English is not the first language must be tested for language proficiency before being allowed to be a Teaching Assistant. A faculty member from the academic department and the Director of the EMS program will evaluate English language proficiency. The prospective TA will make a 5-10 minute presentation on an academic topic assigned in advance by the Physics department. The evaluators will assess the student's ability to explain academic concepts, and to understand and answer questions of the type undergraduates pose in class. For more information, visit this [link](#).

Only students who demonstrate acceptable spoken proficiency in the English language evaluation will be eligible for classroom teaching responsibilities. TAs who fail the language evaluation will be assigned to alternate, non-teaching responsibilities, as well as be assigned the appropriate Linguistics class. Contact x7258 for more information.

Departmental Cooperation and ESL Compliance

Academic departments help the Graduate Dean in monitoring these aspects of EMS policy:

- All new international graduate students are required to take the [English Language Placement Exam](#) (ELPE) at the beginning of the quarter they first enroll at UCSB. Based on their performance on the ELPE, they will be placed in the appropriate Linguistics class (Ling 1, 2, 3G), or exempted out of ESL.
- Students who fail to take the ELPE are considered delinquent and will have their registration blocked for future quarters until they take the ELPE.
- Continuing international students who need additional EMS coursework must register in the appropriate Linguistics classes.
- Attendance in Linguistics classes is required. Students not attending their assigned EMS classes during the first week of classes (and the remainder of the quarter) will be considered delinquent. Students who are delinquent will be removed from their current teaching assignment, and remain ineligible for rehire until it is proven they are attending their assigned classes.
- Students are expected to complete the EMS course progression within three quarters. See EMS Department for more information.

- Students required to enroll in Ling 1 or Ling 2 should be advised to limit their non-Linguistics course load to no more than 8 units, while students required to take Ling 3G should be advised to take no more than 12 non-Linguistics units. Students with poor English skills may take longer than usual to complete their degrees.
- Linguistics 4, EMS Self-Paced Tutorial class, was initiated to avoid scheduling conflicts involving EMS classes and to allow academic departments the option of asking a student who is having trouble speaking or writing English to obtain additional assistance. Departments may recommend that students needing extra help sign up for this class when it is offered.
- If university EMS requirements are not met, Graduate Division will enforce one or more of the following options: withholding of graduate student research assistantships; withholding of degrees; blocking of registration for future quarters and/or blocking advancement to candidacy.

Office of International Students and Scholars

The Office of International Students and Scholars has counselors available to assist and advise international students in many areas, including:

- Housing
- Visas and immigration matters
- Financial aid
- Cross-cultural programs
- English conversation classes

Financial Aid:

Non-immigrant students may apply for President's Work Study through the Office of International Students after three quarters of enrollment on campus.

Foreign Student Tuition Statement:

International students are not eligible for California residency. However, for newly recruited students that will start in Fall 2015, the International Doctoral Recruitment Fellowship (IDRF) will pay for the Non-Resident Supplemental Tuition (NRST) to international doctoral students beyond their first year of residency who have not yet advanced to candidacy. This does not apply to students who were admitted prior to Fall 2015. Please visit this [link](#) for more information.

However, upon advancement to candidacy, the tuition for international students will be reduced by 100% for three years provided the student maintains continuous enrollment.

For this reason, it is particularly important for international students to be aware of the Departmental advancement to candidacy deadline and take steps to ensure that they have advanced by the winter quarter of the third year.

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Additional Resources for Graduate Students

Additional Resources for Graduate Students

- Graduate Division: 3117 Cheadle Hall. Phone: 893-2277
Web: www.graddiv.ucsb.edu

The Graduate Division is located in 3117 Cheadle Hall and provides a number of services for graduate students. All forms and petitions used by graduate students are available in their office and some are available on their website. Students with specific questions regarding campus wide or external fellowships should contact the Graduate Division for advice. Completed dissertations are filed at the Graduate Division, and there are advisors there who will review the dissertation prior to filing to ensure the formatting is correct. Visit this [link](#) for information.

- Graduate Student Association (GSA): 2502 University Center.
Web: www.gsa.ucsb.edu
- Student Health Services: Student Health Bldg. | Phone: 893-5361.
Web: <http://studenthealth.sa.ucsb.edu/>
- Office of International Students and Scholars: 3130 Student Resource Bldg.
Phone: 893-2929 | Web: <https://oiss.ucsb.edu/>
- Career Services: Bldg. 599 | Phone: 893-4411
Web: <http://career.ucsb.edu/>
- Ombuds Office: 1205-K Girvetz Hall | Phone 893-3285
Web: <http://www.ombuds.ucsb.edu>
- Disabled Students Program: 2120 Student Resource Building | Phone 893-2668
Web: <https://dsp.sa.ucsb.edu/>
- Housing and Residential Services: 1501 Residential Services Bldg. | Phone 893-2760
Web: www.housing.ucsb.edu
- Sexual Harassment Complaint Resolution Office: 3211 Phelps Hall | Phone 893-2701
Web: <https://titleix.ucsb.edu/>
- Short Term Loans and Check Disbursement: Billing Office 1212 SAASB | Phone 893-2155
Web: <http://www.as.ucsb.edu/resources/emergency-loans/>

Childcare Reimbursement For information on Childcare Reimbursement, please visit the following link: <https://www.graddiv.ucsb.edu/our-services/graduate-parent-employment>

Hazing, Harassment, And What To Do About It

- What you might think of as “joking around” can be a serious problem if it inhibits others from participation in study groups or other student activities.
- This includes, but is not limited to, derogatory comments about women. We know this behavior has disrupted the participation of some of our female physics students in the past and the department is very serious about curtailing this behavior.
- This behavior is prohibited by the UCSB Codes for Student Conduct, in which it is considered a form of hazing. It can also become a legal case of sexual harassment. Prohibitions against hazing and harassment extend beyond campus property, and beyond official UCSB functions. For example, whether coming from one student repeatedly, or from a group, demeaning female students in an off-campus informal study group is a form of hazing and subject to severe repercussions for the offenders.
- Sexual harassment prevention training is mandatory for all new graduate students. Please visit the following link for more information:
<https://titleix.ucsb.edu/training/compliance-training>.
- Please visit the UCSB Student Code of Conduct at:
https://www.sa.ucsb.edu/docs/default-source/default-document-library/conduct-code-fall-2020_final.pdf?sfvrsn=fada724f_0

What to do? Bullying behavior of this sort can be quickly stopped when offenders are warned about the legal path they are on. An early warning to offenders is the best approach because action can be taken well *before* a situation would be considered sexual harassment.

- Experience has shown that targets of this behavior aren't eager to report problems. If any student, male or female, is the target of or witnesses this activity, we urge you to report the issue to any of the following:
 - The professor of your class
 - Any department faculty
 - Faculty undergraduate advisor or department Chair
 - Earnest Cooper, Undergraduate Advisor
 - Judicial Affairs,
893-5016, <http://studentconduct.sa.ucsb.edu/>
 - UCSB Office of Equal Opportunity and Sexual Harassment/Title IX Compliance
893-2701, <https://titleix.ucsb.edu/>

We insist that ALL of our students treat each other with respect and courtesy. And we sincerely want ALL of our students to enjoy the benefits of studying and socializing with their peers!