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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INTRODUCTION &amp; PHYSICS MAIN OFFICE INFORMATION</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACADEMICS</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advising</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-Advisors</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master’s Degree</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PH.D</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Work</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Waivers</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEACHING</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGLISH PROFICIENCY FOR TA’S (International Students Only)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRADING</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUALIFYING ORAL EXAMINATION</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuous Registration</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residency Requirement for the Ph.D.</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration Procedures</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advancement to Candidacy</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extension of Candidacy</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leave of Absence</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of Leave</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status While on Leave</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Returning Early from Leave</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Withdrawal from Program</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reinstatement</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inactive Status</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terminal Graduate Registration (TGR) Status</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation Quarter Tuition Status</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Committee</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Examination</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing &amp; Submitting the Dissertation</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conferral of Degree</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commencement Ceremony</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit for Graduate Work Done Elsewhere (Graduate Residency Credit)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MILESTONES</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Year</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Year</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Year</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth Year</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fifth Year (or when appropriate)</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9/9/2015 2 of 27
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FINANCIAL SUPPORT</strong></td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Aid Information Forms</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fellowships</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching Assistantships</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Assistantships</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Year Vouchers</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What are these vouchers?</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How long do I have to use them?</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What’s the purpose of these vouchers?</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When can I use them?</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May I use two vouchers in one quarter?</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Insurance Subsidy</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department Travel Reimbursement Support</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PAYMENT OF FELLOWSHIP STIPENDS AND RA SALARIES</strong></td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fellowships</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>REQUIREMENTS FOR EMPLOYMENT AS AN RA OR TA</strong></td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-Time Enrollment</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eligibility to work in US</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Proficiency for TA’s</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax Declaration</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HOW TO PAY UNIVERSITY BILLS</strong></td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITIES</strong></td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By Year of Study</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Study Committee Student Representatives</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town Hall Meetings</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch with the Chair</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colloquia</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BEFORE LEAVING STANFORD</strong></td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RECOMMENDED REFERENCE BOOKS</strong></td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(AVAILABLE IN THE PHYSICS LIBRARY)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WEB RESOURCES</strong></td>
<td>22-25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NOTE PAGES</strong></td>
<td>26-27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear Graduate Student,

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

Sincerely,

Maria Frank
Student Services Officer

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**PHYSICS MAIN OFFICE**

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>E-MAIL</th>
<th>PHONE</th>
<th>OFFICE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rosenna Yau</td>
<td>Administrative Services Manager</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rosenna.yau@stanford.edu">rosenna.yau@stanford.edu</a></td>
<td>3-4345</td>
<td>Varian Main Office, Rm 110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karen Ajluni</td>
<td>Financial Manager</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kajluni@stanford.edu">kajluni@stanford.edu</a></td>
<td>3-4346</td>
<td>Varian Main Office, Rm 111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jenifer Conan-</td>
<td>Administrative Associate, Faculty Affairs</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tice@stanford.edu">tice@stanford.edu</a></td>
<td>3-4347</td>
<td>Varian Main Office, Rm 105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tice</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maria Frank</td>
<td>Student Services Officer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:maria.frank@stanford.edu">maria.frank@stanford.edu</a></td>
<td>3-0830</td>
<td>Varian Main Office, Rm 106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elva Carbajal</td>
<td>Coordinator</td>
<td><a href="mailto:elva@stanford.edu">elva@stanford.edu</a></td>
<td>3-4362</td>
<td>Varian Main Office, Rm 107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violet Catindig</td>
<td>Administrative Associate</td>
<td><a href="mailto:vvc@stanford.edu">vvc@stanford.edu</a></td>
<td>3-4344</td>
<td>Varian Main Office, Rm. 108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonny Langley</td>
<td>Administrative Associate</td>
<td><a href="mailto:langley5@stanford.edu">langley5@stanford.edu</a></td>
<td>3-3349</td>
<td>Varian Main Office, Rm. 108</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For additional information on facilities, colloquium listings and other department events/services please see our department website at [http://physics.stanford.edu](http://physics.stanford.edu)
YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

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

ACADEMICS

Advising

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

Professor Shamit Kachru is the Chair of the Physics Graduate Study Committee for 2015-16. He is available (by appointment) to consult with students about any graduate student related matter, including degree progress.

Co-Advisors

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

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

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

Students should select the co-advisor as soon as he/she is no longer on rotation and has decided on a research program with an advisor in a department other than Physics. In any case, this should be no later than the end of the second year of graduate study. Students should complete the "Advisor/Co-Advisor" form and submit it to the Physics Student Services Officer, Maria Frank. https://physics.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/14_ADVISOR_COADVISOR.pdf

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

From then on, the student is required to meet with his/her co-advisor on a yearly basis, although more frequent meetings are encouraged. During that annual meeting, the student submits a one-page progress report on research for co-advisor approval and signature. The form is given to the Maria Frank for placement in the student's file.
If, during the annual meeting, the co-advisor determines that the research no longer contains a significant physics component, the student will be warned that a Ph.D. in Physics may not be merited and he/she may need to transfer to the relevant department.

**Minor**

A minor in another department must be approved by that department, using the “Application for Ph.D. Minor” form: [http://studentaffairs.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/registrar/files/app_phd_minor.pdf](http://studentaffairs.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/registrar/files/app_phd_minor.pdf)

Your plan must also be approved by the Chair of Graduate Studies. Please see the [Stanford Bulletin](https://www.stanford.edu/dept/registrar/pdf/progpropma.pdf) for more information.

**Master's Degree**

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>PHYSICS 212</td>
<td>Statistical Mechanics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>PHYSICS 220</td>
<td>Classical Electrodynamics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Plus one of the following courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>PHYSICS 230</td>
<td>Graduate Quantum Mechanics I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>PHYSICS 231</td>
<td>Graduate Quantum Mechanics II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>PHYSICS 234</td>
<td>Advanced Topics in Quantum Mechanics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>PHYSICS 330</td>
<td>Quantum Field Theory I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>PHYSICS 331</td>
<td>Quantum Field Theory II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>PHYSICS 332</td>
<td>Quantum Field Theory III</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Plus two 3 unit graduate level courses in Physics or Applied Physics.

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

See the Stanford Bulletin for detailed information on obtaining the [M.S. degree](https://www.stanford.edu/dept/registrar/pdf/progpropma.pdf) in Physics

The [Graduate Program Authorization Petition](https://www.stanford.edu/dept/registrar/pdf/progpropma.pdf) form (required for those interested in pursuing the M.S. in Physics) must now be submitted electronically through AXESS. From the Academics panel in your Student Center, select "Petitions and Forms" from the drop down menu to submit the Graduate Program Authorization Petition electronically. You also need to submit the [Program Proposal for a Master’s Degree](http://www.stanford.edu/dept/registrar/pdf/progpropma.pdf) to the Physics Student Services Officer. The form can be found here:
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PH.D.

COURSE WORK

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

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

TAKE ALL COURSES BELOW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 212</td>
<td>Statistical Mechanics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 220</td>
<td>Classical Electrodynamics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 290</td>
<td>Research Activities at Stanford</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 294</td>
<td>Teaching of Physics Seminar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PLUS one of the following courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 230</td>
<td>Graduate Quantum Mechanics I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 231</td>
<td>Graduate Quantum Mechanics II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 234</td>
<td>Advanced Topics in Quantum Mechanics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 330</td>
<td>Quantum Field Theory I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 331</td>
<td>Quantum Field Theory II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 332</td>
<td>Quantum Field Theory III</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PLUS at least one course from each of two subject areas outside the student's primary area of research (among biophysics, condensed matter, quantum optics and atomic physics, astrophysics and gravitation, and nuclear and particle physics).

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH 106</td>
<td>Functions of a Complex Variable</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 113</td>
<td>Linear Algebra and Matrix Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 116</td>
<td>Complex Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 132</td>
<td>Partial Differential Equations II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COURSE WAIVERS

Students who can demonstrate that they have taken the equivalent course elsewhere with the necessary grade may request to waive that course by submitting the following form: Petition to Waive/Substitute Courses. Follow the instructions, complete and then submit the form with all supporting documentation to the Graduate Student Services Officer, Maria Frank. Note you may submit petitions to waive core courses only. The breadth requirement must be fulfilled by courses you have taken at Stanford University.

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

TEACHING

The department believes that a demonstrated ability to teach is an important part of a graduate-level education in Physics. Consequently, three quarters of teaching are a requirement for the Ph.D. in physics. Teaching duties vary from course to course but can include leading discussion sections, laboratory sections, meeting with students informally through office hours, and grading homework and exams.

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

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

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

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

ENGLISH PROFICIENCY FOR TEACHING ASSISTANTS (International Students Only)

The University requires that International graduate students who wish to be appointed as TAs must first be screened by proficiency in the English language. The screening is conducted by the English for Foreign Students Program in the Stanford Language Center. The Language Center also offers courses in English as a second language (ESL) to international graduate students. More information on the screening exam can be found at http://www.stanford.edu/group/efs/tascreen.html. We strongly recommend students get screened at least one quarter prior to the quarter in which they wish to TA.
GRADING

Occasionally the department needs graders for courses. Grading positions provide an hourly wage, do not pay any tuition allowance and cannot be used to fulfill the teaching requirement. Graders may work a maximum of 8 hours per week, but international students may not work as graders during the academic year if they have a 50% RA or a combined RA/TA appointment. Rules are slightly different for summer quarter. See Maria Frank or Elva Carbajal if you have further questions about grading positions.

QUALIFYING ORAL EXAMINATION

PURPOSE

The Qualifying Oral Exam is an important part of the process of admission to candidacy. The exam seeks to give the student an opportunity to exhibit a broad knowledge of physics and an in-depth understanding of a particular area in order to be effective in original research. The student should exhibit command of the material, an ability to extract the essential elements of a relatively recent development in physics, and the capacity to present this material to an audience of general professionals in a way that demonstrates his or her expertise.

WHEN

Admission to candidacy in the Physics department is normally done at or before the end of the student’s second year. It is therefore strongly recommended that you schedule the exam for Spring quarter of your second year, or earlier. In fact, a good rule of thumb is that you should consider scheduling your exam once you are in your first quarter as a member (as opposed to rotator) in an advisor’s research group. This could be during your first year, if you choose an advisor before completing three rotations.

WHAT TO DO

You should identify a research topic from a field of interest to you that is also close to the forefront of current research. You are discouraged from selecting something directly related to your ongoing Ph.D. research, should that have commenced – something from a related but cognate area would be more appropriate (and may prove useful in preparing you for future research down the road!) You should consult with your Academic or Research Advisor to help you select an appropriate topic. Topics of broad importance and significance, involving multiple areas of physics are preferable to highly focused and specific niches. The topic should be represented by a key research article that the student will summarize to the examination committee (including all relevant physics background to put the content of the article in context.)

It is important to keep in mind that the goal of the examinee should be to clearly understand that selected topic, and how it relates to various board subfields of physics. What is new in the advancement? What are the fundamental ideas underlying the field where advancement was made? How is this research direction likely to evolve in coming months or years?

APPROVAL OF TOPIC AND CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE

Having chosen a topic, you should write a brief (not more than 1 page) description of the subject and paper(s) to be discussed, and submit it to the Qualifying Exam Committee (QEC) for approval. The examination committee for an oral exam will ordinarily consist of three faculty members. One of these will be chosen from the members of the QEC. The student can nominate up to two other
faculty members when submitting his or her topic for approval; a research advisor can but need not be one of the nominees, and the student is expected to choose potential committee members for nomination based on their expertise in a broad range of topics surrounding the subject of the examination. The QEC makes the final determination of the committee members. Ordinarily all three oral exam committee members should be faculty within the Physics department, Applied Physics, or SLAC (PPA and Photon Science). If the student’s primary advisor is a committee member and is from a department other than these, the committee should be enlarged to include at least three physics faculty members.

**Details of the Examination Format**

One should expect the exam to last 60 minutes; it should be scheduled by the candidate with the committee members in consultation. The candidate should provide the topic and paper(s) to be discussed with the committee members at least 4 weeks before the scheduled exam.

The exam will consist of a talk by the candidate to the committee (with no additional observers allowed), followed by a question and answer period. The candidate should plan to talk for 45 minutes, leaving at least 15 minutes for questions. Questions may also be interspersed throughout the presentation. The candidate should be prepared to answer questions about basic physics relevant to the motivation, background, and possible extensions of the research presented. At the end of this period, the student will leave the examination room, where the exam committee (closed session) will decide whether the student has met the exam requirement.

**What if I don’t pass?**

In the event of failure, one is permitted to retake the examination. If failure occurs in the Spring quarter of the second year and there is not sufficient time to schedule another exam in the academic year, one can retake the exam in the Summer quarter following the second year, or the Autumn quarter of the third year. Students who need to retake the exam will need to go through the same approval procedure (of their topic and committee) through the QEC once more. In addition, the student will need to present a 7-10 page write up about the selected topic to the ad hoc committee members for review. The write up will need to be turned into the ad hoc committee members no later than 1 month prior to the 2nd exam attempt. These written notes, together with the presentation, will provide the committee with a better understanding of how the candidate is contextualizing the material in question. The quality and understanding exhibited in the notes can be taken into account by the committee in deciding whether the student passes the second exam. If the student fails the Qualifying Exam on the second try, an ad hoc committee consisting of the student’s Research Advisor and the Chair of the Graduate Studies Committee will be convened to discuss further options with the student.

**University Requirements**

*Continuous Registration* [http://gap.stanford.edu/3-1.html](http://gap.stanford.edu/3-1.html)

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

**Residency Requirement for the Ph.D.** [http://gap.stanford.edu/3-2.html](http://gap.stanford.edu/3-2.html)

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

**Registration Procedures**

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

In summer quarter ONLY, students in year 2 and above can receive up to 75% RA support and in year 3 and above, up to 90% if approved by the advisor. **Students in year 1 are only eligible to earn 50% RA or RA/TA support in summer quarter.** Registration unit levels for summer quarter are slightly different than in fall, winter and spring. The amount of tuition allowance you receive depends upon the percentage of your appointment. For example, if you work as a 75% research assistant, you receive 5 units of tuition support and should only register for 5 units. Detailed information regarding summer registration is sent to students via e-mail at the end of spring quarter.

TGR students register for Physics 802 (TGR Dissertation) for 0 units.

**Advancing to Candidacy** [http://gap.stanford.edu/4-6.html](http://gap.stanford.edu/4-6.html)

Advancing to candidacy is a very important step, with both departmental and university requirements. Departmental requirements include (i) passing the Physics Qualifying Oral Exam and (ii) completing all required core courses with the exception of PHYSICS 294. PHYSICS 294 (Teaching of Physics at Stanford) PH294 should be taken prior to the first quarter TAing, which, for some graduate students may not happen until later in their graduate career. Note that financial support may be delayed if you do not advance to candidacy by your pre-candidacy period expiration date. The Application for Candidacy for Doctoral Degree can be found here: [http://studentaffairs.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/registrar/files/appcanddoct.pdf](http://studentaffairs.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/registrar/files/appcanddoct.pdf)

**Extension of Candidacy**

Ph.D. candidate status is good for **five years** after your pre-candidacy period has ended. You may see your candidacy expiration date in AXESS by viewing your unofficial transcript. If your candidacy end date is approaching or has expired, the following Candidacy Extension form should be completed, signed by your research advisor and submitted to the Physics Student Services Officer ASAP for review and processing: [http://www.stanford.edu/dept/registrar/pdf/appcandextens.pdf](http://www.stanford.edu/dept/registrar/pdf/appcandextens.pdf).

**Leaves of Absence** [http://gap.stanford.edu/5-3.html](http://gap.stanford.edu/5-3.html)

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

**Length of Leave**

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

**Status While on Leave**

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

**Returning Early from a Leave of Absence**

Graduate students returning early from an approved leave of absence must file the Returning Graduate Student Request to Register form before the beginning of the quarter in which they wish to return. The form can be found here: [http://studentaffairs.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/registrar/files/returning_student_request.pdf](http://studentaffairs.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/registrar/files/returning_student_request.pdf)

**Withdrawal From Program**  [http://gap.stanford.edu/5-4.html](http://gap.stanford.edu/5-4.html)

A student who wishes to terminate study in a program should submit a Request to Permanently Withdraw from Degree Program form [http://registrar.stanford.edu/pdf/permanent_withdraw.pdf](http://registrar.stanford.edu/pdf/permanent_withdraw.pdf) to the Student Services Officer, who will forward the information to the University Registrar.

**Inactive Status/Discontinuation**  [http://gap.stanford.edu/5-4.html](http://gap.stanford.edu/5-4.html)

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

**Reinstatement**  [http://gap.stanford.edu/5-4.html](http://gap.stanford.edu/5-4.html)

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

**Terminal Graduate Registration (TGR) Tuition Status**  [http://gap.stanford.edu/6-1.html](http://gap.stanford.edu/6-1.html)

The Humanities and & Sciences Dean’s office requires students with 135 units to apply for TGR status. This usually occurs in the 4th year of study. TGR tuition rates are much lower than the 10-unit rate so it is important to apply for TGR tuition status as soon as you are eligible. **Be sure to complete all required courses, including speaking/writing courses for foreign students, prior to the fourth year of study.** If you have fulfilled residency requirements for TGR status (i.e. completed 135 units) and still need to take courses, you may take up to three units of coursework while TGR with no financial penalty. While on TGR, you need to register for PHYS 802 for “0” units. Note you **must** fulfill the physics department course requirements before you can go TGR. Applications for
TGR status are available at the following link:

Before applying for TGR status check your transcript and confirm that you have received a grade or mark (Satisfactory or CR, for example) for every course you have taken at Stanford. Note that you must also submit your Reading Committee Form prior to going TGR. More information on the Reading Committee Form follows below.

**Graduation Quarter Tuition Status**  [http://gap.stanford.edu/6-1.html](http://gap.stanford.edu/6-1.html)

Registration is required for the term in which a student submits a dissertation or has a degree conferred. Students who meet the conditions listed below are eligible to file a Petition for Graduation Quarter, and, upon approval, to be assessed a special tuition rate for the quarter in which they are receiving a degree. Only one Graduation Quarter may be requested. There is a registration fee of $100 for the graduation quarter. Students must enroll in the appropriate TGR course during their Graduation Quarter. To be eligible for a Graduation Quarter, the following conditions must be met:

1. all course work, degree requirements, and residency requirements for all graduate degree programs, including joint degree programs, must be completed
2. a graduate or professional student must have enrolled or have been on an approved leave of absence in the term immediately preceding the term chosen as the Graduation Quarter
3. the student must have formally applied to graduate
4. the student needs only to submit the dissertation, project, or master’s thesis by the deadline for submission in the term designated as the Graduation Quarter
5. the student has filed all necessary forms regarding graduation quarter before the first day of the term chosen as Graduation Quarter.

Students who are properly enrolled in a Graduation Quarter are registered at Stanford and therefore have the rights and privileges of registered students.

**Reading Committee**  [http://gap.stanford.edu/4-8.html](http://gap.stanford.edu/4-8.html)

Submission of an approved doctoral dissertation to the department and the Committee on Graduate Studies is required for the Ph.D., Ed.D., and J.S.D. degrees. The doctoral dissertation is expected to be an original contribution to scholarship or scientific knowledge, to exemplify the highest standards of the discipline, and to be of lasting value to the intellectual community. Every doctoral dissertation is read and approved by members of the Stanford faculty to ensure that standards for departmental and university quality are met. Standards for professional presentation of doctoral work have been established by the Committee on Graduate Studies. Click on the link above for detailed policy information regarding Doctoral Dissertation Reading Committees. The reading committee, as proposed by the student and agreed to by the prospective members, is endorsed by the Chair of the major department on the Doctoral Dissertation Reading Committee form.

This form must be submitted before approval of Terminal Graduate Registration (TGR) status or before scheduling a University oral examination that is a defense of the dissertation. The reading committee may be appointed earlier if desired. All subsequent changes in the composition of the reading committee must be approved by the Chair of the Ph.D. major department prior to submission of the dissertation via the Change of Advisor or Reading Committee Member form.

**Oral Examination**  [http://gap.stanford.edu/4-7.html](http://gap.stanford.edu/4-7.html)

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

The University Oral Examination committee consists of at least five members: four examiners and an out-of-department committee Chair. The Chair must be a member of the Stanford Academic Council and may not have a full or joint appointment in the same department as the candidate or her/his advisor. In most cases, a SLAC faculty member would not be the best choice for Oral Examination Committee Chair because of the close connection to the Physics Department. In the interest of objectivity the examinee should strive to find a faculty member from another department to serve as Chair. See the Graduate Academic Policies and Procedures Manual http://gap.stanford.edu/4-7.html for rules in selecting a dissertation defense committee chair and the reasons why the Oral Examination Committee Chair must be from outside the department.

Students must be registered in the quarter in which the University oral examination is taken. Candidacy must also be valid. The Doctoral Dissertation Reading Committee form must be submitted to and recorded by the department prior to scheduling the examination. An abstract of the dissertation must be provided prior to the defense.

The University Oral Examination Schedule form is used to officially schedule the examination and includes:

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

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

Writing and Submitting the Dissertation
Students work with their advisor(s) in planning and preparing the thesis. For detailed instructions see: https://studentaffairs.stanford.edu/registrar/students/ediss Contact the Graduate Degree Progress Office with additional questions: 723-3056.

Conferral of Degree http://gap.stanford.edu/5-7.html
To be cleared for conferral of the Ph.D. or Master's degree, you must apply to graduate via AXESS by the due date indicated on the Registrar's Office website. Check with the Student Services Officer to make sure all requirements have been met and all grades have been cleared.

Commencement Ceremony https://commencement.stanford.edu/
For detailed information about participating in the university wide commencement ceremony, visit the link above.

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

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

**Credit for Graduate Work Done Elsewhere (Graduate Residency Credit)**
http://gap.stanford.edu/3-2.html (section 1.5)
After at least one quarter of enrollment, students pursuing a Ph.D. may apply for credit for graduate work done at another institution if that work meets the established eligibility criteria. Note that transfer units cannot be used towards a Master's degree. No more than 45 units of transfer credit may be applied towards a Ph.D.

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

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

**More Information**

**MILESTONES**
http://gap.stanford.edu/ch3.html
The usual schedule for physics graduate students consists of two years of course work, plus research training, leading to the dissertation and Ph.D. degree. Although there are exceptions, a well-prepared graduate student should complete the dissertation within five years after qualifying for candidacy, i.e., passing the Qualifying Oral Exam, completing all course work and filing the application for candidacy.

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

**First or Second year:** Pass the Physics Oral Qualifying exam no later than spring qtr of 2\textsuperscript{nd} year.

**Second year:** Submit Application for Candidacy for Doctoral Degree by pre-candidacy period end date of your second year. Candidacy is valid for five years.

**Third year:** Prepare a tentative Proposal for Thesis Research by end of summer term of the third year. There is no form for the Proposal for Thesis Research. The Ph.D. candidate may submit a 1-3 page proposal signed by the student, advisor and co-advisor (if required.) By this time ALL course requirements should be completed.

If a student wishes to start thesis research with an advisor outside Physics, Applied Physics, or SLAC, he/she must submit the following information to the Student Services Officer: Advisor’s name (must be an academic council member); field of proposed research and tentative thesis title; and name of co-advisor from the Physics Department. The research plan must be approved by the Graduate Study Committee. See earlier section (“Co-advisors”) for more detail.
After submitting the thesis proposal, students are required to choose a reading committee in consultation with their advisors. Reading committees consist of the principal advisor and two other readers. At least one committee member must be from Physics. See earlier section ("Reading Committee") for more detail. These three faculty members will sign the finished dissertation. Reading committee forms are available online at:


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

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

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

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

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

Fourth year oral presentation forms are available online at https://physics.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/REVISED_Fourth_Yr_Oral.pdf

When 135 units have been completed, apply for Terminal Graduate Registration (TGR) status. TGR forms are available online at:


**Fifth year or when appropriate:** Take the university oral exam, and file dissertation by quarterly deadline.

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

*Financial Aid Information Forms*

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

Students use this form to indicate their intention to work as a TA and/or RA, or indicate that they have fellowship support. *There is a strict deadline by which the financial aid form must be submitted to the Graduate Student Services Officer. Late submission of forms may delay stipend payment and/or cause denial of the health insurance subsidy.*
During the academic year, students can be paid for a 50% (full support) RA appointment which includes 8, 9 or 10 units of tuition. Since it costs the same for 10 units as it does for 8, students are asked to register for 10 units every quarter in order to more quickly progress to TGR status and thus, a lower tuition rate. In Physics, students often combine smaller TA and RA appointments during the same quarter, for a total 50% appointment. U.S. citizens can work an additional 8 hours per week as graders. International students cannot work more than 50% during the academic year.

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

**Fellowships**

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

- Department of Defense: [http://www.asee.org/ndseg/](http://www.asee.org/ndseg/)
- Stanford Graduate Fellowship (SGF): by nomination only: [http://sgf.stanford.edu](http://sgf.stanford.edu)

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

**Teaching Assistantships** [https://physics.stanford.edu/becoming-teaching-assistant-physics](https://physics.stanford.edu/becoming-teaching-assistant-physics)

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

The salary for 2015-16 TA appointments can be viewed [here](https://physics.stanford.edu/becoming-teaching-assistant-physics). See Elva Carbajal, the Undergraduate Program Coordinator, for questions about teaching assistant assignments and refer to the Physics TA web pages for further information.

The department provides a teaching orientation (PHYSICS 294, Teaching of Physics Seminar, offered Autumn and Winter terms) and the Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning (VPTL) has an excellent orientation session in the fall, and valuable training available at any time. See [https://vptl.stanford.edu/](https://vptl.stanford.edu/) and [https://vptl.stanford.edu/events/ta-orientation-2015](https://vptl.stanford.edu/events/ta-orientation-2015) for more information.

**Research Assistantships**

Research assistant salaries in Physics for the 2015-16 academic year are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RA Type</th>
<th>Salary per quarter</th>
<th>Salary per pay period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50% RA</td>
<td>$9,259</td>
<td>$1543.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25% &amp; 20% RA, 1st year</td>
<td>$4,704</td>
<td>$784.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25% &amp; 20% RA, 2nd year+</td>
<td>$5,330</td>
<td>$888.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA Supplement</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies depending upon fellowship</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Regular graduate (non-TGR) tuition allowances for the 2015-16 academic year are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RA Type</th>
<th>Salary per quarter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50% RA</td>
<td>$9,910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25% RA</td>
<td>$4,955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20% RA</td>
<td>$3,964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA Tuition Supplement</td>
<td>Varies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Varies depending upon fellowship
The federal and state governments tax salaries for virtually all current students. Foreign students may wish to consult an advisor in Payroll or at the I-Center regarding possible tax exemption based on a treaty between the US and their home countries. See the following webpage for helpful information: [http://icenter.stanford.edu/taxes/tax_info.html](http://icenter.stanford.edu/taxes/tax_info.html). Foreign students receiving taxable scholarships or fellowships may claim any applicable treaty exemption by filing the appropriate forms with the Student Financial Services office.

**First Year Vouchers**

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

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

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

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

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

**Health Insurance Subsidy**

Stanford subsidizes the Cardinal Care premium for graduate students who are employed in research or teaching assistantships, and for students receiving the equivalent level of fellowship support. Details regarding eligibility and amount can be found on the Vaden Health Center website.

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

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

The following enrolled graduate students (who do not waive Cardinal Care and do not have an outside fellowship source paying the full cost of insurance) will receive the PARTIAL subsidy:
- those with a Research or Teaching Assistantship appointment of less than 25%
- those with a fellowship paying a non-tuition stipend at or above the minimum salary for a 10% assistantship (CA or RA)

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

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

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

Click here for a Cardinal Care Cost Table:

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

Students who are enrolled in Cardinal Care during the academic year will automatically be enrolled in Cardinal Care for Summer Quarter at no additional cost (whether they are enrolled as a student in the summer or not). Since there is no charge posted for Cardinal Care during Summer Quarter, a corresponding Cardinal Care subsidy is not applied in Summer quarter.

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

**Departmental Travel Reimbursement Support**

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

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

*Fellowships*

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

*Salaries*

Teaching and research assistants are paid as university employees. Employees are paid on the 7th and the 22nd of the month or on the preceding Friday if one of those dates falls on a weekend or holiday. The first paycheck in Autumn Quarter arrives on 10/22 for the period from 10/1 to 10/15. The 11/7 paycheck covers the period from 10/16 to 10/31. The last paycheck of the academic year comes on 7/7 for the period from 6/16 to 6/30. **Students are strongly encouraged to have paychecks deposited directly to an individual bank account. You can apply for direct deposit via AXESS.**
Note that students who are paid by SLAC may be subject to different rules and procedures. Check with the SLAC Human Resources Department if you have any questions.
If you opt not to sign up for direct deposit, you can pick up your check from the main office receptionist only during regular office hours (10 a.m. - 12:00 noon and 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday)

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

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

**Requirements for Employment as an RA or TA**

**Full Time Enrollment**

*In order to receive pay from the university you must be registered as a full-time graduate student.*

For Graduate students this means that you must enroll in courses and/or research totaling **8-10** units (10 units preferred) each quarter during the academic year (if not on TGR status) and for the zero unit TGR course PH 802 if you are on TGR status. Enrollment levels for summer quarter will vary according to your appointment percentage. Enrollment levels for some fellowship students may vary. Check with the dept. Student Services Officer if you have questions.

**Eligibility to Work in the United States**

All students, scholars and fellows receiving financial support or wages from Stanford must have a U.S. social security number or ITIN (Individual Taxpayer Identification Number) on file with the University and an I-9 form on file with Payroll. In addition, foreign students must have a current visa and passport. See

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

The University requires that International graduate students who wish to be appointed as TAs must first be screened by proficiency in the English language. The screening is conducted by the English for Foreign Students Program in the Stanford Language Center. The Language Center also offers courses in English as a second language (ESL) to international graduate students. More information on the screening exam can be found at http://www.stanford.edu/group/efs/tascreen.html. We strongly recommend students get screened at least one quarter prior to the quarter in which they wish to TA.

**Tax declaration**

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

Review the information at the “Getting Started as an Employee” and “Requirements for Employment as a TA” pages for other important information/requirements.

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

- **FALL QUARTER:** October 1 - December 31
- **WINTER QUARTER:** January 1 - March 31
- **SPRING QUARTER:** April 1 - June 30
- **SUMMER QUARTER:** July 1 - September 30.
Note that these dates are normally different from the start and stop dates of quarters on the university’s academic calendar. This timing is intended to deliver continuous salary to students appointed for multiple sequential quarters, i.e., students on assistantships are paid during the periods between quarters. Arrangements for any variations in work hours, including time off for vacation or illness, should be made individually with the faculty sponsor. See Administrative Guide Memo 10.2.1 (Graduate Student Assistantships, Section 11) for detailed information: https://adminguide.stanford.edu/chapter-10/subchapter-2/policy-10-2-1

**HOW TO PAY UNIVERSITY BILLS**

For detailed information on the various ways to pay University bills see the University Bill web page. http://fingate.stanford.edu/students/universbill/payment_methods.html#payment_plan

**COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITIES**

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

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

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

- **Physics Graduate Study Committee (Student Representatives)**
  Three graduate students attend graduate study committee meetings and give their input concerning curriculum, teaching, and department policies.

- **Town Hall Meetings**
  These meetings are held in the fall and spring quarters to discuss student related issues and concerns.

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

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

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

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

**BEFORE LEAVING STANFORD**

- Please return all keys to the receptionist and retrieve your deposit.
- Complete a *GRADUATE EXIT INFORMATION FORM (available from Maria Frank)*, submit it to the Student Services Officer and add your forwarding address and e-mail to AXESS.
- Apply for a leave of absence if you have not yet submitted your dissertation.
- File an "Application to Graduate" for the quarter in which you expect to receive a degree. You may do this via AXESS

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

The Ph.D. Process: A Student's Guide to Graduate School in the Sciences

Graduate Research: A Guide for Students in the Sciences

**WEB RESOURCES**

DEPARTMENT OF AERONAUTICS AND ASTRONAUTICS
http://aa.stanford.edu/

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

ASTRONOMY PROGRAM
http://www.stanford.edu/dept/astro/

STANFORD ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
http://www.stanford.edu/group/astronomy/

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

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

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

STANFORD COURSEWORK
https://coursework.stanford.edu/portal/
DIRECTIONS FOR PREPARING DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS
http://studentaffairs.stanford.edu/registrar/students/dissertation-thesis

BECHTEL INTERNATIONAL CENTER
http://www.stanford.edu/dept/icenter/index.html

DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
http://ee.stanford.edu/

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

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY
http://www.stanford.edu/dept/EHS/prod/ and
https://physics.stanford.edu/resources/safety-training

EXPLORE COURSES
http://explorecourses.stanford.edu/CourseSearch/

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

GEBALLE LABORATORY FOR ADVANCED MATERIALS (GLAM)
http://www.stanford.edu/group/glam/

GINZTON LABORATORY
http://www.stanford.edu/group/ginzton/

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

STUDENT HOUSING
http://www.stanford.edu/dept/rde/shs/

COMMUNITY HOUSING SERVICES

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

KAVLI INSTITUTE FOR PARTICLE ASTROPHYSICS AND COSMOLOGY (KIPAC)
http://kipac.stanford.edu/kipac/

LINAC COHERENT LIGHT SOURCE (LCLS)
https://slacportal.slac.stanford.edu/sites/lcls_public/Pages/Default.aspx

LIBRARIES
http://www-sul.stanford.edu/

PHYSICS MACHINE SHOP
https://physics.stanford.edu/service-centers/machine-shop
MAPS
http://www.stanford.edu/dept/visitorinfo/plan/maps.html

PARTICLE PHYSICS AND ASTROPHYSICS
http://home.slac.stanford.edu/ppap.html

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

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY PLAN

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

REGISTRAR’S OFFICE
http://studentaffairs.stanford.edu/registrar

SIMPLE ENROLL
http://studentaffairs.stanford.edu/registrar/news/simple-enroll

STANFORD INSTITUTE FOR MATERIALS AND ENERGY SCIENCE (SIMES)
http://simes.slac.stanford.edu/

STANFORD INSTITUTE FOR THEORETICAL PHYSICS (SITP)
http://www.stanford.edu/group/sitp/

STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES
https://sfs.stanford.edu/

SLAC NATIONAL ACCELERATOR LABORATORY
http://www.slac.stanford.edu/

STANFORD SYLLABUS
https://syllabus.stanford.edu/mercury/stanford.syllabus.standalone/mercury/list_view

STANFORD SYNCHROTRON RADIATION LIGHTSOURCE (SSRL)
http://ssrl.slac.stanford.edu/

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

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

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

VICE PROVOST FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING (VPTL)
https://vptl.stanford.edu/
FELLOWSHIPS & SCHOLARSHIPS

AT&T
http://www.research.att.com/internships?fbid=zOVCLFsQX90

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

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

IBM

NASA GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCHERS PROGRAM (NASA GSRP)
https://fellowships.nasaps.com/gsrp/nav/
http://fellowships.hq.nasa.gov/gsrp/nav/

NATIONAL DEFENSE SCIENCE & ENGINEERING GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP (NDSEG)
http://www.assee.org/ndseg/

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

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF)
https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/grfp/

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

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

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT DIRECTORIES

FACULTY:  https://physics.stanford.edu/people/faculty

RESEARCH AND TEACHING STAFF:  https://physics.stanford.edu/people/researchteaching-staff

DEPARTMENTAL AND OTHER AFFILIATED STAFF:  https://physics.stanford.edu/people/staff