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# Physics Digest

News, info, and updates for Ph.D. students in Physics at UW–Madison

May 7th, 2021

## Announcements

### Payroll Schedule Change Coming in July

UW System employees, including graduate students, who are paid monthly will move to a biweekly payroll schedule beginning in July 2021. Visit the [Single Payroll resources web page](#) for frequently asked questions, budget planning information and the 2021 payroll schedules. If you have automatic payments set up (for example, rent, car loan, utilities, etc.), review your monthly budget and prepare for biweekly paychecks. You may want to adjust your automatic payments to match your biweekly paycheck amounts. Watch for emails beginning in May that will provide reminders and information on contributions and withholdings that may be impacted by the new biweekly schedule. Finally, the UW System will be hosting three single payroll virtual town hall meetings in May, which can be accessed [here](#).

### Department of Physics Commencement Website

The Department of Physics will be celebrating graduates virtually via the [Physics Commencement Website](#), which will go live on May 8th at 8:00am CST. Anyone from the Department of Physics (faculty, staff, students) is encouraged to record a message in the [Physics Flipgrid Spring 2021 "Yearbook"](#)! Record a Flipgrid message of well-wishes, words of wisdom, or congratulations to the Class of 2021 Graduates - both undergrad and grad. The Physics Flipgrid "Yearbook" will be included on the website, along with video messages from the Department of Physics Chair, Prof. Sridhara Dasu, Department of Physics Associate Chair, Prof Mark Rzechowski. Please contact [Allison Tredinnick](#) with any questions.

### COVID-19 Vaccination Update

UW-Madison sent out an [email about the COVID-19 vaccine and community safety precautions](#) this week. As a reminder, University Health Services (UHS) has COVID-19 vaccine appointments available for employees and students. UHS is also now able to offer vaccines to anyone who lives, works or studies in Wisconsin, including friends and family of UW–Madison students and employees. For more information and to schedule a vaccine appointment, visit click [here](#). Additionally, please note that, effective May 10, 2021, [access to campus buildings and facilities will no longer be limited](#) to those with green/building access granted Badger Badges unless required by those overseeing a specific space, event, or other in-person activity.

### **Attending Graduation? RSVP Now!**

UW-Madison graduates who wish to attend graduation at Camp Randall on May 8th will need to complete an [RSVP form](#) by the end of the day today, May 7th. Additionally, you will need to have a green badge on the [Safer Badgers app](#) and complete a [Canvas course](#). For more information, visit the [commencement website](#).

### **Cool Science Image Contest**

*Deadline: May 14th, 2021*

Submit your cool science image! This contest is open to the UW–Madison community. Faculty, staff, students, postdocs and others with campus connections are eligible, and may enter as individuals or groups. Images can depict an object or phenomenon from any discipline, and the contest welcomes any method of producing an image — including, but not limited to microscopy, photography (astronomy, nature, etc.), animations and (short) videos, medical imaging, science-as-art, schematics, and photos of 3D-printed objects.

### **Spring 2021 Grading Policies Updated: SD/UD Available for Grad Students**

UW-Madison will implement a very similar disruption grading policy in spring 2021 as it did in spring 2020, with the amendment noted below (see #2) that UD (Unsatisfactory-Disruption) be changed to (University Disruption-No Credit).

Change to description of spring 2020 “UD” grades: The UD grade, used on the transcript for the spring 2020 term, will remain as “UD”. In public facing documents, such as the transcript legend and the Guide, the UD grade will be defined as “University Disruption-No Credit”.

[Pandemic transcript notation](#): In the transcript memorandum section for any student enrolled at UW-Madison during spring 2020-spring 2021, this standard statement will be applied: “A global public health emergency in spring 2020, summer 2020, fall 2020 and spring 2021 required marked changes to university operations that may have significantly affected student enrollment, learning and grading.”

### **Summer and Fall 2021 Enrollment Happening Now!**

[Summer 2021 enrollment began on April 5th and Fall 2021 enrollment will began on April 12th](#). If you need to enroll in Physics 990, please review the instructions for adding by course number and the Physics 990 course numbers for Summer 2021 [here](#) and Fall 2021 [here](#). The Graduate School maintains a policy page on [minimum enrollment requirements](#). For questions, contact [Jackson Kennedy](#).

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## **Upcoming Events**

### **Department of Physics Event Calendar**

See the departmental events calendar to be sure you don't miss any of the upcoming seminars, workshops, or journal clubs, workshops!

### **Student Affairs: Campus Happenings**

See the UW Student Affairs news website and scroll to the "current happenings" listing each week.

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## **Professional Development**

### **Every Summer Needs a Plan**

*Date: May 13th, 2021; 1:00 - 2:00 PM CST*

This planning webinar is designed for you to identify your personal and professional goals for the summer, create a strategic plan to accomplish them, and identify the types of community, support, and accountability you need to make this your most productive and balanced summer ever. To register, click [here](#).

### **Inclusive Teaching Workshop**

*Date: May 14th, 2021; 9 AM - 12 PM CST*

As students interact with each other more often with active learning, how do you respond to “hot moments” or “difficult discussions” in the classroom? Aspects of prejudice, privilege and power regularly impact undergraduates on our campuses. Without training, knowing how to address these inequities effectively can be uncomfortable and challenging. This workshop is designed to build your confidence in using inclusive teaching strategies. For information and to register, click [here](#).

### **"Niceness is Not Anti-Racism": How White Aspiring Allies Can (and Must) Step Up Their Game**

*Date: May 18th, 2021; 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM CST*

In this workshop, Nestic Morris and Jessi Corcoran will encourage white aspiring allies to think more deeply about their allyship, admit their failings honestly to overcome white fragility, and decide on some actions. While activities are designed for white folks to examine their allyship, people of all races and ethnicities are welcome to participate. To register, click [here](#).

### **Summer Teaching Institute at the University of British Columbia**

*Date: June 14th - June 23rd, 2021; 11:00 AM - 7 PM CST*

The CIRTL Summer Institute is an intensive teaching development institute that combines an emphasis on learning evidence and theory-based approaches to teaching and learning with the opportunity to apply those theories in practice. In this institute, grad students and postdocs will gain foundational knowledge in evidence-based teaching and learning theory and apply insights in three mini-teaching sessions using an experiential learning based lesson planning approach. Over the course of 8 days and a mix of synchronous sessions and asynchronous work, you will explore topics like novice/expert learning, evidence-based approaches to goals and objectives, assessment, active learning, and inclusivity.

### **Transforming Your Research Into Teaching Short Course**

*Date: Wednesdays, June 16th - July 28th, 2021; 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM CST*

This is a hybrid course focused on learning the skills of course design and developing a college-level course based on the area of your research expertise. In this course, you will be matched with peers across the country who are developing courses in similar areas for peer review and inspiration. You will also have a learning community, either based out of your institution, or a cross-network learning community to have weekly synchronous meetings for discussion of your projects and what you're learning. The course runs for 6 weeks (with an additional week for project presentations), has one one-hour meeting per week, and requires around 1.5–2 hours of self-directed video and project development work per week. To register, click [here](#).

### **Summer Computational Physics Program: Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute**

*Date: June 23rd - July 16th, 2021*

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute will be hosting a boot camp and summer school on computational physics with particular emphasis on applications that require high performance computing. This program will be held entirely online and is open to advanced undergraduates and all levels of graduate students. you can apply for the program [here](#).

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## Employment Opportunities

### UW-Madison Graduate School Project Assistants

*Deadline: May 18th, 2021*

The UW-Madison Graduate School is hiring two graduate student project assistants to work on configuration and administration of the Graduate Student Tracking System (GSTS) project. The successful candidate will start in mid-June, as soon as the hiring process concludes, and be able to work through the summer and coming academic year. To apply, click [here](#).

### Thermo Fisher: PhD Scientist

Thermo Fisher Scientific is hiring a scientist at their Madison site, which builds Raman, FT-IR and X-ray spectrometers and microscopes. Qualified candidates who have recently graduated with a PhD will be considered and experience in spectroscopy is not required. For more information, contact recent UW Physics alum [Julian Irwin](#) or apply [here](#).

### University of Wisconsin - River Falls: Associate Lecturer

UW-River Falls will be hiring an associate lecturer position to teach algebra-based introductory physics (face-to-face) in a studio lab setting. The appointment could be for both Fall and Spring depending on the candidate. For more information, contact [Dr. Suruj Seunarine](#) or apply [here](#).

### Q-Next Quantum Information Science Postdoctoral Appointees

The [Q-NEXT Center](#) will be hosting quantum information science postdoctoral openings with start dates in 2021. The postdoctoral scholars will have the opportunity to work at Argonne National Laboratory on projects of strategic national importance in quantum information science. For questions contact [Martin Suchara](#) and to apply, visit [here](#).

### Chicago Prize Postdoctoral Fellowship in Theoretical Quantum Science, UChicago

*Deadline: July 15th, 2021*

Fellowships are awarded for a duration of two years to outstanding young scientists and engineers, with the possibility of a third-year support. Please submit your application [here](#).

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## Funding Opportunities

### Marie Christine Kohler Fellows @ WID Fellowship

*Deadline: May 15th, 2021*

Marie Christine Kohler Fellows @ WID are graduate students selected on the strength of their creative abilities and their commitment to contribute to interdisciplinary thought. Kohler Fellows work and collaborate

within the Illuminating Discovery Hub at the Wisconsin Institute for Discovery (WID). For more information and to apply, go [here](#).

### **Spring 2021 Student Research Grant Competition awards**

*Deadline: June 30th, 2021*

Funding for these awards generously comes from the Vilas Trust. Award levels are \$1,200 to \$1,500 for Research Travel and \$1,200 for Conference Presentation funds. Please apply [here](#).

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## **Useful Links**

[Dates and Deadlines from the Office of the Registrar](#)

[Warrant Request Form](#)

[Graduate School Degree Deadlines](#)

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### **Connect with us!**



### **[Department of Physics](#)**

1150 University Avenue, Madison, WI 53706

*This newsletter is for Ph.D. students in Physics at UW–Madison; we update the mailing list at the start of each semester. Please contact [phddigest@physics.wisc.edu](mailto:phddigest@physics.wisc.edu) with any questions.*