

Physics Major Academic Advising and Faculty Mentoring Syllabus
Office of Student & Education Services
Department of Physics
University of Maryland, College Park

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Office Hours:

The Office of Student & Education Services is open from 8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Students should contact their assigned academic advisor to schedule an appointment. Walk-in advising hours are available but times vary; please check the OSES website for information.

What is academic advising?

Academic advising is a dynamic relationship between advisor and student to support the student's educational and career success. The academic advisors in the Physics Department provide guidance on academic policies and regulations, assist with the transition to the University of Maryland, encourage participation in undergraduate research and other relevant activities, help with preparation for post-graduate opportunities, and provide information about other resources available on-campus that offer academic and personal support.

What is faculty mentoring?

Your physics faculty mentor can help you understand the science career path and give you advice about how to navigate that path depending on your interests.

Goals/Learning Outcomes

- Students will understand the requirements necessary to complete a BS in Physics at UMD.
- Students will understand what physicists do.
- Students will be aware of opportunities for research involvement.
- Students will understand the importance of research experience at the undergraduate level.
- Students will understand the importance of developing skills that may not be taught in the physics curriculum - e.g., soldering, computer programming, writing, public speaking and presentation skills.
- Students will be aware career opportunities at different degree levels.
- Students will learn to take responsibility for their own success.
- Students will be aware of University policies related to undergraduates and resources for information or clarification of those policies.
- Students will be aware of Campus resources to help them succeed academically, socially and professionally.

Advising, Mentoring Process & Related Activities

Advising is mandatory for all physics majors. All mandatory advising activities must be completed prior to registration for the following semester.

First Year

- September:
 - Meet with assigned advisor to discuss transition to UMD and graduation plan
 - Adjust schedule during the Schedule Adjustment period if necessary
 - Attend the All Majors Meeting
- October/November
 - Meet with assigned faculty mentor
 - Attend a group advising meeting
 - Check Testudo for Early Registration information
 - Contact assigned academic advisor if any issues arise
 - Be aware of the deadline for dropping a course with a W
- November/December
 - Meet with assigned academic advisor to discuss plan for spring semester
 - Register for spring classes
 - Attend the Undergraduate Research Fair
- January

- Review academic performance from previous semester and make any necessary adjustments
- February/March
 - Meet with assigned faculty mentor
 - Attend a group advising meeting
 - Check Testudo for Early Registration information
 - Enjoy Spring Break
 - Contact assigned academic advisor if any issues arise
 - Be aware of the deadline for dropping a course with a W
- April/May
 - Meet with assigned academic advisor to discuss progress and plans
 - Attend Undergraduate Research Showcase
 - Register for fall semester
- June/July/August
 - Participate in undergraduate research, internship, etc.

Expectations

We expect physics majors to take advantage of many opportunities and resources available to help you succeed. In addition, we expect you to:

- Pay attention to emails from the Physics Department, the College of Computer, Mathematical and Natural Sciences, and from the University. Pay special attention to messages on the phys-major listserv, from your academic advisor, and the Office of Student and Education Services.
- Schedule appointments with your advisor. Information about mandatory advising appointments will be sent out during the semester.
- Show up on time for appointments. If you cannot keep a scheduled appointment, please notify your advisor as soon as possible.
- Take your education seriously. Go to class. Practice good time management and study habits. Talk with your professors regularly.
- Contact your advisor as soon as possible if you are experiencing any difficulties that might affect your academic performance.
- Come to registration advising appointments prepared to discuss your performance in current courses, plans for the next semester and other topics relevant to your academic and career goals.
- Get involved in extracurricular activities (including the Physics Makerspace, undergraduate research, and other activities of interest), but maintain a good balance between school and activities.
- Accept responsibility for your decisions and actions.

Resources

The Society of Physics Students (SPS)

<https://sps.physics.umd.edu/>

The Society of Physics Students (SPS) is a diverse group of students hailing from all parts of campus. While a majority of our members are physics majors, we have members in areas ranging from computer science to government and politics. Many members are double majors in subjects a little closer to home, such as math or astronomy.

The Career Center

careers.umd.edu

The University Career Center & The President's Promise provides comprehensive career assistance for all students enrolled at the University of Maryland, College Park. Designed to support students through each stage of their career development, the Center offers an array of resources, services and programs that empower students to pursue their ambitions and navigate a meaningful career journey.

Learning Assistance Service

<http://www.counseling.umd.edu/las/>

The Learning Assistance Service (LAS) is the academic support unit of the University Counseling Center. LAS exists to help students achieve their academic goals by providing a range of services.

The Math Department's Test Bank

www-math.umd.edu/testbank.html

The Math Department's archive of old MATH exams is a great resource for preparing for exams.

Math Tutoring and other Math Resources

The Math Department has a variety of resources to help students succeed and master material.

<https://www-math.umd.edu/undergraduate/resources.html>

Math Success

http://reslife.umd.edu/programs/math_success/

The purpose of the Math Success Program is to help students solve their math problems, and also to help students build confidence in math skills and decrease anxiety about math. We expect that this increase in confidence will also have a positive effect on their other coursework.

SPS Tutoring

umdphysics.umd.edu/academics/tutoring-a-academic-support/676-sps-tutoring-for-physics-majors.html

The physics department has a new tutoring program for physics majors. In PHYS1304, from 4pm - 6pm, Monday through Friday, tutors will be available to help students with the introductor sequence

(PHYS171, PHYS272, and PHYS273), the required math courses (MATH140, MATH 141, MATH241, PHYS 274, and PHYS373), modern physics (PHYS371), and quantum mechanics I (PHYS401). Come to get help with questions about homework or general questions about course material!

The American Institute of Physics

www.aip.org

AIP offers authoritative information, services, and expertise in physics education and student programs, science communication, government relations, career services for science and engineering professionals, statistical research in physics employment and education, industrial outreach, and the history of physics and allied fields.

The National Scholarships Office

scholarships.umd.edu

The National Scholarships Office can help you search for awards that fit your goals well.

Health Center

www.health.umd.edu

A *Medical Home* provides patient-centered, provider-directed, comprehensive care, built upon a continuous relationship between a patient and a specific health care team. Students are encouraged to establish the University Health Center (UHC) as their primary point of care while enrolled at the University.