

ASTR/PHYS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Join faculty and graduate students from A&S and Physics in a discussion

OPENER QUESTIONS

Should I go?

Where's the program?

How do I apply?

How can I get in?

starts at 4:30 PM

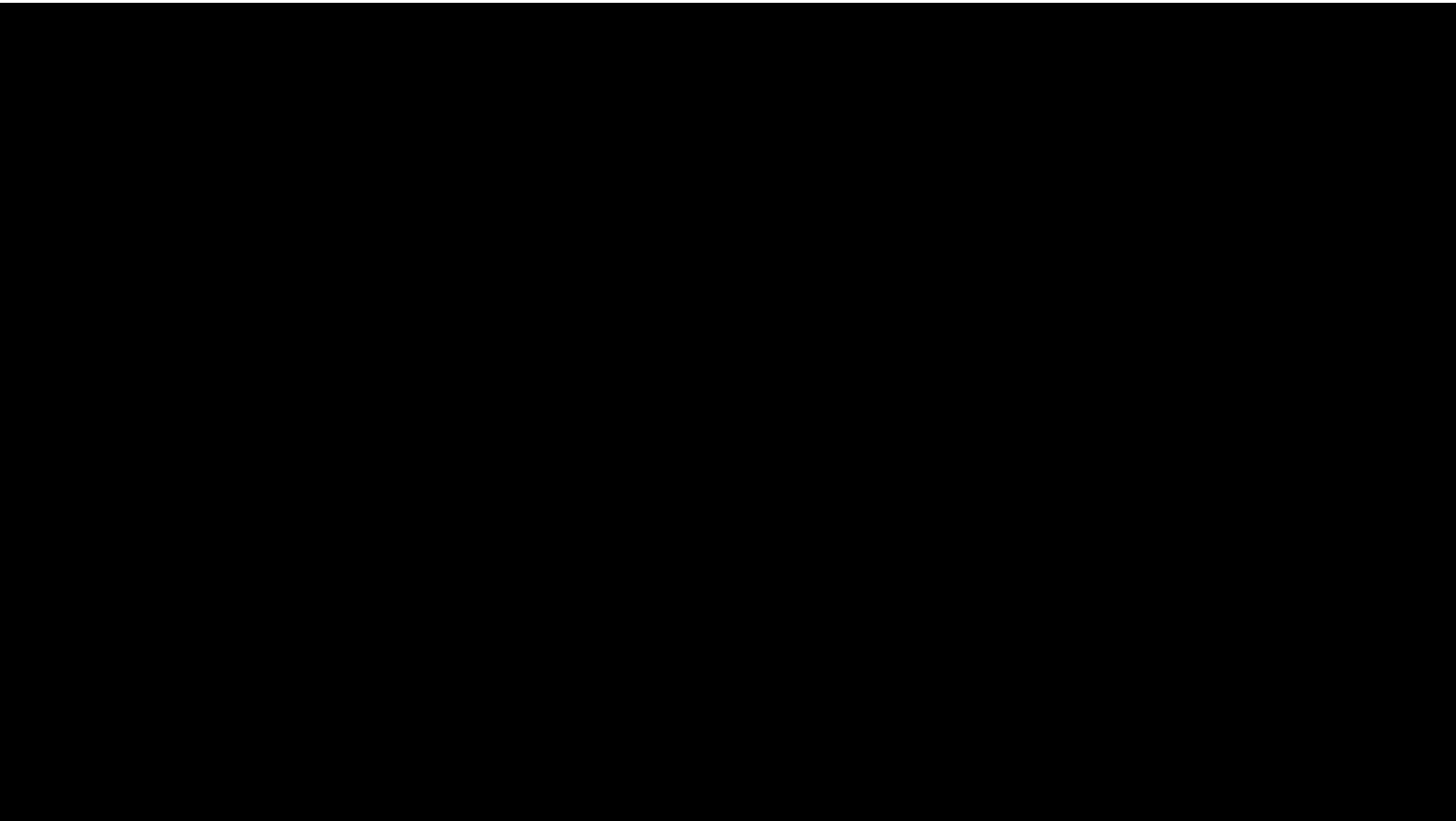
Monday, 10/11/2010

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Grad School Discussion - Agenda

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Interested in these career paths??

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Interested in these career paths??

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Professional Development

This website is designed to offer resources and advice that will help you prepare for graduate school.

APS/PHYS Professional Development resources for undergraduate physics and astronomy at CU Boulder

main sections:

Previous Events/Resource Recordings

Recordings and presentations from this page if you want to see the presentation from an event if you missed!

Undergraduate Opportunities

Opportunities for research

Applying and to Graduate School

Resources for conducting the application process

Curriculum Vitae

Advice and resources for writing a CV to find a career.

Background

APS/PHYS Professional Development (previously "Beyond Boulder") was started in Fall 2006 by Elizabeth Lyman with support from a National Science Foundation Assistant Professorship. She led the program through Spring 2011. Emily Levesque led the program from 2011-2014, and Mike Meyer from 2014-2016, and Nick Schneider of APS from 2016 to present.

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Should I apply to graduate school?

Should I apply to graduate school? This is a common question that many students ask. The answer is not a simple yes or no. It depends on your interests, your academic preparation, and your financial situation. Graduate school is a significant investment of time and money. It typically requires a 5-6 year time commitment and a bar on salary, which presents a severe financial opportunity cost. PhDs in physics are not typically paid as well as other professions. If you are considering graduate school, it is important to think carefully about your research interests and your career goals.

When making this decision, you should consider your career goals and financial goals. It can be helpful to look up some of the following resources:

APS/PHYS Professional Development resources for undergraduate physics and astronomy at CU Boulder

Resources for conducting the application process

Advice and resources for writing a CV to find a career.

Background information on the program

Curriculum Vitae resources

Applying to Graduate School resources

Undergraduate Opportunities resources

Previous Events/Resource Recordings

Professional Development resources

Home > Undergraduate Studies > Professional Development > Applying to Grad School

Nick's Closing Comments

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Grad School in the Astronomical & Planetary Science

ASTR/PHYS Professional Development – Fall 2023

Paul Hayne (APS faculty)

Topics:

What should I expect in
astro/planetary grad school?

How can I get into grad school?



What can I expect in astro/planetary grad school?

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- Fall of third year
 - Research presentation and paper on short project relevant to subfield
 - Usually, but not necessarily related to eventual thesis
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- 2-3 years “post-comps”
 - Become the world expert in chosen subfield and topic of research
 - Learn to become an independent scientist and publish





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- Need to identify letter writers (faculty/research mentors) ASAP in fall
- Start drafting the "personal statement" during the summer/early fall, give time to faculty mentors to read it and provide feedback
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Qualities sought in applicants/admits are those that signify likelihood of success in the PhD program:

- ∪ Fundamental knowledge (and success in) physics, math, and related coursework
- ∪ Ability to perform (independent) research
- ∪ Creativity
- ∪ Perseverance
- ∪ Professionalism

Fundamental knowledge (and success in)
physics, math, and related coursework

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Creativity & Perseverance

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What if I decide grad school isn't for me?