Graduate School Deadline Dates

Spring 2012

February 7
All Graduate Degree Candidates: Last day to electronically submit the Application for Graduation.

February 14
Doctoral Students: Last day to submit Nomination of Dissertation Committee Form (Committee form must be submitted at least 6 weeks before the scheduled defense.)

March 2
Master’s Thesis Students: Last day to submit the Approved Program Form and Nomination of Thesis Committee Form. Committee form must be submitted at least 6 weeks before the scheduled defense; Master’s Non-Thesis Students: Last day to submit the Approved Program Form.

April 23
Doctoral Students: Final date to electronically submit Dissertation to the Registrar; Final day to submit Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Publication Form; Final day for Dissertation Directors to send Report of Examining Committee Form.

May 1
Master’s Thesis Students: Final date to electronically submit Thesis; Final day for Thesis Directors to send Report of Examining Committee Form; Final day to submit Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Publication Form; Master’s Non-Thesis Students: Final date to submit Certification of Master’s Degree Without Thesis Form.

Summer 2012

July 13
All Graduate Degree Candidates: Last day to electronically submit the Application for Graduation.

June 4
Doctoral Students: Last day to submit Nomination of Dissertation Committee Form (Committee form must be submitted at least 6 weeks before the scheduled defense.)

July 13
Master’s Thesis Students: Last day to submit the Approved Program Form and Nomination of Thesis Committee Form. Committee form must be submitted at least 6 weeks before the scheduled defense; Master’s Non-Thesis Students: Last day to submit the Approved Program Form.

August 3
Doctoral Students: Final date to electronically submit Dissertation; Final day to submit Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Publication Form; Final day for Dissertation Directors to send Report of Examining Committee Form.

August 10
Master’s Thesis Students: Final date to electronically submit Thesis; Final day for Thesis Directors to send Report of Examining Committee Form; Final day to submit Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Publication Form; Master’s Non-Thesis Students: Final date to submit Certification of Master’s Degree Without Thesis Form.

Submit all forms to the Chemical Physics Graduate office CSS Bldg. room 4203 for submission to the Registrar. If you have questions or concerns please contact: Debbie Jenkins, dajenkin@umd.edu or 301-405-4780

Fall 2011 Graduates

Ashley Hardin (2006) - American Journal Experts, Managing Editor

Candace Pfefferkorn (2006) - National Institute of Health (NIH), Post-Doctoral Researcher

CONGRATULATIONS!

Up-coming Events

Wednesday, February 8, 2012
Chemical Physics Student Meeting, 5:30 PM, 1116 IPST Bldg.

Tuesday, March 13, 2012
Maryland Biophysics Program presents the Cellular Dynamics Symposium, 1103 Biosciences Bldg., University of Maryland College Park 9 am to 5 pm

Friday, March 16, 2012
Chemical Physics Advisor Meeting
CSS Bldg. Room 4301, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Spring 2012 Enrollment

Edward B. Baker - Weizmann Institute of Science
Currently, the requirements for Ph.D. candidacy include a scholarly paper and scientific presentation of 50 minutes before an audience that includes at least two faculty members. These are also among the requirements for the M.S. degree. While these requirements are useful in preparing students for the writing of scientific manuscripts and their theses, it has been proposed that the two separate requirements be linked in a more coherent manner and that faculty participate more actively in the evaluation of the written documents and oral presentations.

Scholarly Paper and Oral Presentation, Ph.D.

Upon passing the Qualifying Examination, it is expected that students will choose a Ph.D. thesis advisor, if they have not already done so, and begin Ph.D. thesis research. Within 12 to 18 months after beginning Ph.D. research, the student is to select a Ph.D. Thesis Examination Committee. In order to advance to Ph.D. candidacy, the student must submit a scholarly paper and make an oral presentation, both of which are to be evaluated by a candidacy committee consisting of at least two faculty members, generally including the advisor.

The nature of the paper and presentation depend on the degree to which the student has been engaged in research. Students with a well-developed thesis topic and research results are expected to include these results together with further research plans in their paper and presentation. Students less far along with research will present background material and summaries of the research areas in which they will be working. A concise review of the literature is expected, along with a bibliography of the most important literature. The length of the paper is expected to be between 15 and 20 double space pages (12-point font) with 1-inch margins.

The student shall submit the paper to the candidacy committee at least two weeks before the date of the oral presentation. This presentation is to last approximately one hour, with 30 minutes devoted to a prepared presentation based on the paper and 30 minutes for questions and discussion. It is the task of the candidacy committee to insure the quality of the paper and the validity of the research.

Scholarly Paper and Oral Presentation, M.S.

Non-Thesis Option

After passing the Qualifying Examination at the M.S. level the student is to select an Examination Committee consisting of at least two faculty members, who will read the scholarly paper and attend the oral presentation. The paper should provide an informative review of the research topic selected by the candidate in consultation with his/her academic and research advisors. The bibliography is a particularly important part of the paper and should include the most significant references to the topic. The length of the paper is expected to be between 15 and 20 double space pages (12-point font) with 1-inch margins.

The oral presentation to the Examination Committee will last approximately one hour, with a 30-minute prepared presentation followed by 30 minutes of discussion and questions. It is the task of the committee to insure the quality of the paper and the understanding of the material in the paper.

Thesis Option

For the thesis option, the M.S. thesis and oral defense replace the scholarly paper and oral presentation of the M.S. non-thesis option. After passing the Qualifying Examination at the M.S. level the student is to select a Thesis Examination Committee consisting of at least three faculty members including the research advisor. The list of Examining Committee members should be provided to the Graduate School at least six weeks before the date of the expected thesis examination. The Examining Committee will review the MS thesis, attend the oral presentation and participate in the defense of the thesis.

The MS thesis normally consists of an introduction to the field of research with which the student is engaged, statement of the problem under study, the objectives of the research, the approach to be taken, original results, interpretation, and conclusions. A concise review of the literature, and a bibliography of the most important literature should also be included. The M.S. thesis has no set length, but is typically in the 40-page range. The format of the dissertation (font, margins, etc.) must follow the University of Maryland Thesis and Dissertation Style Guide (http://www.gradschool.umd.edu/current_students/etd_style_guide.html). After the dissertation is approved by the Examining Committee, it must be electronically filed with the graduate school.

The implementation of the above modifications to the Ph.D. and M.S. requirements will be fall 2012 entering class. The effectiveness of the modifications will be reviewed after there have been a sufficient number of students undertaking the integrated scholarly paper and oral presentation requirement.
Faculty In The News

**Daniel Perry Lathrop** appointed as Associate Dean for Research in the College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences (CMNS) 1/2/2012

**Christopher Jarzynski** (Chemistry and Biochemistry and IPST) taught a five-lecture course on nonequilibrium statistical physics at the Summer School on Statistical Physics of Complex and Small Systems, in Mallorca, Spain, September 19-23, 2011. Jarzynski also gave an invited talk at an exploratory workshop on "Nonequilibrium Fluctuation Relations in Quantum Systems" in Mallorca.

**John Weeks** (Chemistry and Biochemistry and IPST) was co-editor and also co-authored, with Graduate Student Richard Remsing (Chemistry and Biochemistry, Chemical Physics) and Jocelyn Rodgers (2008 Ph.D. Chemical Physics, advisor John Weeks), one of the articles in a special issue of the Journal of Statistical Physics on water and associated liquids, on hydrophobic and ionic interactions in bulk and confined water with implications for collapse and folding of proteins. They demonstrated that, using simulations in explicit water that ordered states of generic amphiphilic peptide sequences should be stabilized in cylindrical nanopores.

**Dave Thirumalai** (Chemistry and Biochemistry and IPST), with S. Vaitheeswaran (IPST) and Jie Chen (IPST) also published an article in the special issue of the Journal of Statistical Physics on water and associated liquids, on hydrophobic and ionic-interactions in bulk and confined water with implications for the anomalous behavior of the internal pressure and the temperature dependence of the density of bulk water.

Graduate School and Financial Information

**Tax Status**

Fellows and scholars must pay tax on the stipends they receive to cover living and general expenses, but may deduct certain educational expenses. Amounts awarded in payment of tuition are not taxable for fellows. Taxes are not withheld from stipends disbursed through student financial aid so you may choose to file an estimated tax payment. Please refer to the **Internal Revenue Service Tax Publication 970, Benefits for Education**, for more information regarding the tax status of fellowship and scholarship stipends or call 1-800-829-1040.

**Travel Grants**

The Graduate School administers the Jacob K. Goldhaber travel grants for graduate students. Goldhaber grants are available to support part of the cost of attending conferences at which graduate students will present the results of their research. Because funding is limited, students are urged to apply as soon as their presentations have been accepted. More information is available at [http://www.gradschool.umd.edu/current_students/travel_awards.html](http://www.gradschool.umd.edu/current_students/travel_awards.html).

**Overload Payments for Graduate Students**

Under certain circumstances, fellows and graduate assistants may be offered employment in addition to their normal appointments. As outlined in Chapter 15: Graduate Assistants and Chapter 16: Graduate Fellows, approval for such overload payments must be obtained from the Graduate School in advance of the appointment. The required request form can be found at [http://www.gradschool.umd.edu/images/uploads/overload.pdf](http://www.gradschool.umd.edu/images/uploads/overload.pdf).

**Emergency Loans**

Students may receive up to $500 as an interest-free loan that must be repaid in 60 days. If the loan is not repaid within 60 days, the amount will be charged against the student's account and late fees may be incurred. These loans are available from the Office of Student Financial Aid, 1135 Lee Building. Applicants should bring documentation of their need. A short loan application form will have to be completed. Students will meet briefly with a loan counselor who will review their need. The loan counselor will either approve or deny funds.
2012 CHEMICAL PHYSICS/BIOPHYSICS
SPRING RECEPTION

FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 2012

2:00 - 4:00 PM

2400 SECOND FLOOR ATRIUM
COMPUTER AND SPACE SCIENCE BLDG. (NEW WING)

ALL CHEMICAL PHYSICS/BIOPHYSICS STUDENTS
FACULTY and STAFF ARE INVITED

R.S.V.P. BY MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2012
Debbie Jenkins - dajenkin@umd.edu, 301-405-4780 or
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