

Useful Websites for Physics Majors Applying to Graduate School

Grad School Shopper: The American Institute of Physics compiles a *Guide to Graduate Programs in Physics and Related Fields*. The goal of this resource “is to become the most comprehensive online source for researching graduate programs in the physical sciences, engineering and related fields”. It provides very detailed information on each graduate program in physics, applied physics and engineering physics in the US, Canada and Mexico. <http://www.gradschoolshopper.com/>

American Institute of Physics Statistical Research: See the reports on graduate education in particular. These reports cover “issues concerning graduate physics and astronomy education, and degree production at US universities. They provide current data and historic trends for enrollments and degree production, including student demographics, educational experiences and post degree plans.” <http://www.aip.org/statistics/>

Grad School Resources: This is a very useful page containing links to many of the Fellowship programs, compiled by the Harvard Society of Physics Students: <http://www.hcs.harvard.edu/~physics/?q=node/12>

Notes on Graduate Record Exams (GRE):

The General GRE is a computerized test and is given six days a week (Mon-Sat). The closest test centers to Stanford are South San Francisco, San Jose and Fremont. See the GRE web page to schedule an appointment: <http://www.ets.org>

The Subject GRE test (Physics) is a paper-based test and is given three times a year: October, November and in the spring (~April). See this link for a summary of the subject areas covered on the test: <http://www.ets.org/gre/subject/about/content/physics> See the above link on Physics GRE Resources for lots of useful information on registering, studying, etc. Several practice test are available on the web. See the GRE web page to schedule an appointment: <http://www.ets.org> The registration deadline is more than a month in advance of the test and test centers do fill up, so register early!

Physics Subject GRE Study Resources:

The American Physical Society has prepared a webinar on “Acing the Physics GRE: Tips and Strategies. See <http://www.aps.org/careers/guidance/webinars/greprep.cfm>

A couple of MIT graduate students have put together a guide to studying for the Physics GRE: <http://www.physicsgreprep.com/> Here is a description from their web site: “*PhysicsGREPrep.com is an effort by two physics graduate students at MIT to remedy the astonishing lack of study materials for the Physics GRE. Frustrated by old, unrepresentative*

exams and a lack of comprehensive review material, we created a complete suite of study materials to help students earn the highest score possible.” The book is available for ~\$50 online.

Here is a very useful Physics Subject GRE preparation web page put together by the Society of Physics Students at Ohio State University:

http://www.physics.ohio-state.edu/undergrad/ugs_gre.php

They have grouped problems by topic (Mechanics, E&M, Quantum, etc.) and arranged them into 18 “problem sets” to organize your studying. They have also written up solutions with tips on how to most efficiently arrive at the correct answer (dimensional analysis, symmetries, limiting cases, etc.). Of course, it is best not to look at the solutions until you have thoroughly analyzed the problems yourself... The web site also contains links to complete past exams and other resources.

And here is another useful web page with information and resources on preparing for the Physics Subject GRE, compiled by the Harvard Society of Physics Students:

<http://www.hcs.harvard.edu/~physics/?q=node/13>

We recommend that you start by writing one practice exam in an “exam environment,” grade the exam, and use it to identify areas in which you most need review. Also try to reserve the questions from one complete exam to do a final practice exam in an exam environment to work on strategies for when to skip a problem and move on to the next one.