

## PhD program application checklist CUWIP 2015

### Before your senior year

- Get good grades in your physics, math and related courses
- Get to know your professors, especially in advanced and laboratory courses
- Do research (during the summers, at your home institution, etc.)

### Summer before senior year

- Do research
- Study for GRE Physics Subject Test
- Apply to take GRE general and subject tests
- Consider applying for external fellowships such as NSF

### Early in senior year

- Take GRE tests
- Determine where you will apply for PhD studies (usually 5-10 schools)
  - Talk to research advisors and colleagues and faculty advisors
  - AIP Grad School Shopper site <http://www.gradschoolshopper.com>
  - Go line and/or request materials; check out <http://www.aps.org/programs/women/female-friendly/index.cfm>
  - Participate in graduate school fairs
- Ask 3 individuals to write letters of reference (research advisors, professors)
- Draft personal (professional) statement of purpose and ask advisors for help
- Request transcripts from all colleges and universities you have attended (including for summer sessions)

### Applying for PhD studies – select 5-10 schools to apply to

- Check deadlines
- Tell references where you will be applying, what the deadlines are and give them copy of your personal statement
- Submit on-line applications
  - Contact info: robust e-mail address, current and permanent addresses
  - Provide all information requested
  - Indicate interest in financial aid, including assistantships and fellowships

### You have been accepted – congratulations!

- Make sure you are being offered both stipend/salary and tuition (and fee) remission or waiver
- Visit the school
  - Talk to faculty and graduate students about all aspects of the course work, qualifying exams, and research opportunities
  - Walk around the community
- Say thank you for invitation to visit

### Before April 15

- Accept school that you will be attending
- Graciously turn down other schools that made you an offer and thank them
- Tell your references where you are going and say thank you

Not ready to start PhD studies right after B.S.? Do as much of the above as possible and ask to have application or matriculation deferred.

Other questions? Contact Professor Jolie Cizewski [Cizewski@rutgers.edu](mailto:Cizewski@rutgers.edu)

Have FUN as a PhD student and welcome to the community of professional physicists!