This handbook provides general guidelines for Applied Physics graduate students. In addition to being in agreement with the regulation stated in this program handbook, students must also be in agreement with the General Announcements (GA) and the Code of Conduct.

In case there is conflicting information, university-wide regulations take precedence over the institute and program regulations, which take precedence over research group-wide regulations.

In doubt, students should seek help first at the program level (graduate administrator, advisor, program chair) and then at the central administration level (Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.)
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1. **Applied Physics Faculty & Staff**

Chair, Applied Physics (APP)  
Kevin Kelly

**Applied Physics Curriculum and Admissions Committee (APCAC)**

Palash Bharadwaj  
Jason Hafner

Kaden Hazzard  
Naomi Halas

Kevin Kelly  
Thomas Killian

Junichiro Kono  
Christy Landes

Gururaj Naik  
Emilie Ringe

Tomasz Tkaczyk  
Rafael Verduzco

**Smalley-Curl Institute (SCI)**

Executive Director  
Alberto Pimpinelli

Director  
Naomi Halas

APP/SCI Administrator  
Carol Lively

Michelle Downey  
Events Specialist

2. **Academics: Overview**

The Smalley-Curl Institute offers an Applied Physics graduate program (APP) leading to the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) The program does NOT offer a stand-alone thesis Master of Science degree; students admitted to our Ph.D. program with a bachelor’s degree are required to earn the M.S. within the program before proceeding to the Ph.D.

Students admitted with an approved previous M.S. degree will need to discuss specific requirements with the Applied Physics committee chair and student's advisor. Previous M.S. degrees are approved or denied contingent upon the approval of the student's advisor and the Applied Physics Curriculum and Admissions Committee (APCAC). Some courses may still be required as core courses cannot be waived. Denied previous M.S. degrees require the student to obtain a Rice Applied Physics M.S. degree before continuing on to the Ph.D. degree.

2.1 **Graduate Application**

The online application for admission is located at [https://apphgradapps.rice.edu/](https://apphgradapps.rice.edu/).
The application process is opened beginning on September 1. Admissions are for the fall ONLY and the deadline is January 31. Late applications will NOT be considered.

The application fee is $85, payable by credit card. Applicants with financial needs may be eligible for application fee waivers and should request via sciapp@rice.edu; please see the list of accepted waivers below.

University-paid application fee waivers include:

- IRT (Institute for Recruitment of Teachers)
- McNair Scholar Program
- Nankai University Hundred Young Teachers Program
- Project 1000
- VEF (Vietnam Education Foundation)

Successful applicants to the Ph.D. program must have a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

The general GRE is required for admission to the Applied Physics program, but the GRE Physics subject exam is not required. If applicants have taken the Physics subject test, then scores should be indicated on the application.

Minimum TOEFL scores for international applicants are 600 (paper), 250 (computer), and 90 (iBT). TOEFL requirements for the Ph.D. program may be waived for students who have received a degree from a university where English is the official language of communication.

For internationals admitted to the program, proof of financial support is also required.

Our average admitted students obtain a 3.63 GPA (on a 4-point scale), GRE scores in the range of Q164 (Q790 on the previous scale) and V157 (V560 on the previous scale) and above. The average Physics subject test score is 752. The average TOEFL iBT score for admitted international students is 100, and the average IELTS score is 7.5.

2.2 Degree Program

Students admitted to the Ph.D. program are funded by the Applied Physics Graduate Program for the first 9 months of study with a monthly stipend and full tuition waiver. The Ph.D. program is full-time only with a minimum of 9 credit hours during the spring and fall semesters (6 hours if registered in the summer.)

At the end of their first year and continuing throughout subsequent years, APP students will select a faculty advisor and affiliate with that research group, who is then responsible for funding of the student’s stipend and research expenses. (See section 2.4 for additional details.) They are also associated with the advisor’s department of primary affiliation and enjoy day-to-day association with faculty and students in that department.
Ph.D. students may be required to fulfill several semesters of grading as part of the degree requirements. The number of semesters is determined by the host department with which the student is affiliated.

A 3.0 GPA (B) must be maintained in major and minor coursework, and all classes that count toward the degree must be taken as a standard letter grade course. Only courses in which a grade of B- or above is achieved will be counted towards the M.S./Ph.D. degrees. Students whose term GPA falls below a 2.33 will be placed on academic probation by the university. For more information see the Academic Discipline section of the General Announcements.

2.3 Research Groups

Because of the interdisciplinary nature of the Applied Physics program, there are a number of research groups in Engineering and Natural Sciences available to students.

Some of the thematic areas include:

- Biophysics
- Condensed Matter Physics/Quantum Matter
- Photonics and Plasmonics
- Nano/Advanced Materials
- Nanoscience/Nanotechnology
- Atomic, Molecular, Plasma, and Chemical Physics
- Applications-Emerging Technologies

During the first semester of study, students will be invited to attend brown bag seminars hosted by faculty across a broad range of disciplines. These seminars allow students to meet the faculty and learn about research being done at Rice University that is pertinent to the APP program. These seminars will help students find an area of interest, research group and advisor.

It is the responsibility of the student to talk with faculty about the likelihood of joining a particular research group. Students should begin these discussions as early in the fall semester as possible.

2.4 Academic and Research Advisors

Decided no later than March 1 and starting on May 15 at the end of their first year, and continuing throughout subsequent years, APP students will select a faculty advisor and affiliate with that research group, who is then responsible for funding of the student’s stipend and research expenses. Students desiring to work with someone who is not a member of the Smalley-Curl Institute (http://sci.rice.edu/fellows/) may do so with the permission of the Applied Physics Curriculum and Admissions Committee (APCAC). This includes faculty in the Texas Medical Center.

At this time the students should complete the Research Proposal & Affiliation form which includes a brief description of their planned research, which must be reviewed and approved by the prospective advisor and the Applied Physics program chair. Once the advisor has been chosen, students will be hosted by the same department as their advisor. Grading is not required as part of
the PhD program but students may be asked to grade/TA, depending on the preference of the host department and their advisor.

After affiliating with a research group, stipend decisions are determined by the advisor and/or the host department. Students are responsible for discussing salary issues with their respective advisors. Initial salary discussions should be held before officially affiliating with a research group.

2.5 Advice on Changing Research Groups or Host Department

Rice recognizes research interests may change after a student enters a graduate program. If a student feels his/her interests and talents could be better served working with a different advisor or in another research group or department, a change can be accommodated. Although each case is unique, following are guidelines for making an advisor/group/department switches:

- Discuss issues with current advisor. Often an adjustment of research topic may resolve the problem.
- If issues are insurmountable, speak with faculty members whose research interests are more in line with the student’s and who have the funding for support.
- When an alternate faculty member agrees to replace current advisor, obtain permission from the APP Chair, then proceed to the Graduate Program Administrator, who will process the documentation required for the exchange.

2.6 Honor System and Student Code of Conduct

The student body at Rice, through its commitment to the Honor Code, accepts responsibility for assuring the validity of all examinations and assignments. The Honor Council is responsible for investigation of all reported violations and for trial in those cases where the facts warrant.

Graduate students are expected to observe the provisions of the Rice University Honor Code. Violations may result in serious penalties including a failing grade in the course and suspension from the university.

The faculty will state the restrictions applying to various forms of class work. If there is doubt about the conditions for a particular assignment, it is the student’s responsibility to contact the faculty member in charge of the course.

Please refer to the Rice University General Announcements for the Honor System and Student Code of Conduct for more information.

2.7 Research and Scholarly Activities

Please refer to the Rice University General Announcements regarding Research and Scholarly Activities, as well as the following Rice policies: 324-00 Research Misconduct, 326-98 Human Health and Safety in the Performance of Research, 333 Patent and Software Policies, and 334 Copyright Policy.
2.8 Program Learning Outcomes

Students graduating in the program will:

1. Acquire and demonstrate advanced knowledge in the foundational applications of physics including familiarity with past and current scientific literature in their specialization.
2. Develop the ability to conduct independent applied physics research including the ability to identify, formulate, and overcome challenging scientific and engineering problems in this endeavor.
3. Make an original and significant technical contribution in their chosen specialization area.

3. Coursework

3.1 Core and Elective Requirements, Course Waiver Requests

The Ph.D. program prepares students for research careers in academia and industry. Students admitted to the Ph.D. program are required to complete 90 hours of credit for coursework and research, beyond the bachelor’s degree. Four semesters of full-time study at Rice are also required.

The first academic year concentrates on foundation coursework followed by focus on a research area. First-year students should meet with a selected member of the APCAC to determine first semester coursework. The first year consists of a minimum of 18 hours of coursework. Students will meet with their advisors to plan coursework for all subsequent years.

For the Ph.D. degree in Applied Physics, the student must fulfill the University requirements set forth in the catalog under which he/she entered or any subsequent catalog. The semester hour requirements may be fulfilled both by classroom hours and research hours. Nine one-semester graduate level courses of no less than 3 credits hours or higher are required, divided into 4 Core and 5 Elective courses.

The Master of Science (M.S.) degree is offered only as a precursor to the Ph.D. degree. It requires at least 33 semester hours of credit beyond the Bachelor’s degree (typically 27 hours of course credit, as specified above, and at least 6 hours of APPL 800, Research and Thesis, credit.)

If a similar M.S. has already been earned under another school/program, candidates may petition their research advisor and APCAC to waive the M.S. requirement, though curricular requirements must still be fulfilled. If during the student’s previous thesis Masters study one or more of the core courses were not taken, these must be completed before a Doctoral degree can be awarded.

Similarly, if the APCAC committee deliberates that not enough total courses were taken for the previous thesis M.S., completion of a certain number of additional elective courses may be required of the student.
Core Courses:
- Quantum Mechanics: PHYS 521 or CHEM 530
- Statistical Physics: PHYS 526 or CHEM 520 or CHBE 540
- Classical Mechanics: PHYS 515
- Electrodynamics: PHYS 532
- Fluid Mechanics: CHBE 501
- Mathematical Methods: PHYS 516
- Physical Biology: BIOE 502
- Solid State Physics: PHYS 563

Elective Courses:
Five courses may be selected from a list of approved courses offered by different departments in Natural Sciences and Engineering. These are chosen according to the research directions of the student. The up-to-date list is maintained at [http://sci.rice.edu-curriculum](http://sci.rice.edu-curriculum). Other courses may be considered to count as electives on a case-by-case basis by petitioning and obtaining approval from the APCAC. See Appendix A for a list of suggested specialization curricula.

Course Credit Transfers and Elective Credit Requests:
Particular Core course requirements may be transferred for students who have had similar courses elsewhere and who demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the material in the course at Rice. To receive a course transfer credit, the course cannot be part of the credits for a previous degree, a copy of the official transcript must be provided, a copy of the class description from the syllabus must be provided, and the Graduate Transfer Request for Credit must be completed. (Visit the Office of the Registrar’s website for university guidelines at [http://registrar.rice.edu-students/grad-transfer](http://registrar.rice.edu-students/grad-transfer)) The concurrence of the faculty member teaching the relevant course at Rice and the APCAC must be obtained in writing.

For elective classes completed at Rice and not on the Approved Electives list, the approval of APCAC is required. Elective courses must be no less than 3 credit hours to be eligible. To make a request, send an email to the Applied Physics administrator with the class number, title, description, and faculty name, noting that the request is for credit for an elective not on the approved list.

No courses may be used for fulfilling both Core and Elective requirements. Due to overlap of curricula, only one from each of the pairs PHYS 521/CHEM 530 and PHYS 526/CHEM 520/CHBE 540 may be used for the nine required courses. No courses previously used to fulfill the requirements of a Bachelors or professional Masters or other degree will be accepted as course electives.

Qualifying exams of the host department will not be required of the APP students. However, for the students' own benefit we strongly advise that they enroll in any required seminar courses with the final decision being left up to the students and their advisors.
3.2 Registration, Drops, and Adds

Students register for courses online through their Esther account. For a list of registration deadlines, consult The Office of the Registrar’s website at www.registrar.rice.edu. Current and upcoming academic calendars can be found at https://registrar.rice.edu/calendars.

3.3 Grades, Department Duties, Employment, Academic Status

Grades:
University guidelines state that to graduate, students must achieve at least a B- (2.67) GPA in each course counted toward the graduate degree. Some programs and departments have more stringent standards. For the Applied Physics program, the overall Grade Point Average of all Core and Elective Courses must be a B (3.0) or better, with a grade of at least B– (2.67) in all courses. A Core course may be repeated once to bring the grade up to this level, applicable to a maximum of 2 Core courses. Any course in which a grade of C+ or lower is received must be repeated. For repeated Core courses, the GPA calculation for satisfaction of this requirement will not include the first grades of repeated Core courses.

To compute GPAs, the credits attempted in semester hours for each course and the points for the grade earned (from A+ = 4.33 to F = 0.00) are multiplied, then the products (one for each course) are added together, and the sum is divided by the total credits attempted. Please note the the GPA for courses is calculated separately from seminars and research & thesis courses.

Pass/Fail:
All students, except Visiting Post Baccalaureate students, may take course(s) Pass/ Fail outside their department. They must file a course as Pass/Fail no later than the end of the 10th week of classes; however, they may later convert a Pass/Fail to a graded course by filing the appropriate paperwork with the Office of the Registrar. Students should be aware that while a grade of P does not affect their GPA, a grade of F does. Classes taken pass/fail do not count toward the core and elective course requirement.

Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory:
Some departments may assign a grade of Satisfactory (S) or Unsatisfactory (U). Students should be aware that while a grade of S or U does not affect their Grade Point Average, no credit will be awarded if a grade of U is received. Courses with a grade of S will count towards total credits earned but not towards the core and elective course requirement.

Incompletes:
Instructors report this designation to the Office of the Registrar when a student fails to complete a course because of verified illness or other circumstances beyond the student’s control that occur during the semester. For an incomplete received in the fall semester, students must complete the work by the end of the fourth week of the spring semester or an earlier date as defined by the instructor, and instructors must submit a revised grade by the
end of the fifth week. For an incomplete received in the spring semester, students must complete the work before the start of the fall semester or an earlier date as defined by the instructor, and instructors must submit a revised grade by the end of the first week.

**Audit:**
The grade designation of Audit (AUD) is used for people auditing a course, and specifically when the auditing student has met the audit requirements of the course. A grade designation of NC is given to students who do not meet the audit requirements. Requests to audit a class or to change from audit to credit or vice versa must be done by the end of the second week of the semester. Audit classes do not count toward the core and elective course requirement.

**Departmental Duties**
In most research degree programs, students may be asked to complete a limited amount of teaching or perform other services as part of their training. Assigned duties should not entail more than 10 hours per week, averaged over the semester, or extend over more than eight semesters. All APP students may be requested as part of their graduate education to perform some teaching and/or grading. The precise duties are set by the host department, which subsequently provides written certification of fulfillment of teaching/grading responsibilities to the APP.

**Academic Status:**
The student’s research advisor and the APCAC will review the student’s research progress and academic status each semester to ensure the student is making satisfactory progress in the program. The student and advisor are required to complete an annual online progress report. (See section 6.3 for additional details.)

Students must maintain continuous program involvement and enrollment unless granted an official leave of absence. See [Leaves and Withdrawals](#) in the General Announcements for more information.

**3.4 Host Department Seminars, Classes, and Qualifying Exams**
Qualifying exams of the host department will NOT be required of the Applied Physics students. However, for the students' own benefit we strongly advise that they enroll in any required seminar courses and classes with the final decision being left up to the students and their advisors.

**4. Timelines and Procedures, Candidacy and Defense**

**4.1 M.S/Ph.D. Timelines and Procedures**
Barring a written exemption from the APCAC, the M.S. must be completed within 3 years of entering the program, the Ph.D. from B.S. within 6 years. If you have a previous Master’s degree
accepted by the APCAC, the Ph.D. should be achieved in 4 years. The program does NOT offer a stand-alone thesis Master of Science degree; students admitted to our Ph.D. program with a bachelor’s degree are required to earn the M.S. within the program before proceeding to the Ph.D.

NOTE: approved previous M.S. degrees will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the APCAC. (See section 3.1 for more information.)

4.2 Petitioning for Candidacy

Candidacy marks a midpoint in the course of graduate education. Achieving candidacy for the PhD/DMA signals that a graduate student has: (a) completed required course work, (b) demonstrated the ability for clear oral and written communication, and (c) shown the ability to carry on scholarly work in his/her subject area.

Master’s students must be approved for candidacy before the beginning of their fifth (5th) semester of enrollment at Rice; PhD students must be approved for candidacy before the beginning of their ninth (9th) semester of enrollment. Students who are approaching or who have passed their deadline to candidacy must submit an extension of candidacy request to the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. Students who exceed their time boundaries without an approved extension request will be charged a fee of $125 for reinstatement to good standing.

Before candidacy is approved, a thesis committee consisting of at least three tenured or tenure-track faculty or research fellows is selected by the student and advisor. At least two of those members should have an appointment at Rice University.

The Chair of the thesis committee is either the advisor or a faculty member whose primary affiliation is in the host department of the student, and affiliated with the program. The second member of the committee is affiliated with the program. The third committee member’s primary departmental affiliation is outside the student’s host department and outside the program. Thesis committee make-up is approved by the head of the program, with final approval given by Graduate Studies. See the General Announcements for the formal structure of the thesis committee.

M.S. Candidacy and Defense

When a student has completed the requisite hours (33 from within the Ph.D. course plan), has established a committee, and has performed research, the Petition for Approval of M.S. Candidacy form is submitted to the Graduate Program Administrator by no later than the end of the 4th semester (second year). If the end of the second year falls during May, the student has until August 15 to complete the petition. The administrator will provide the statement of applicable department requirements, a copy of the transcript, and the student’s checklist to candidacy. The form requires the Program Chair’s signature and approval by the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS), which will be obtained by the Administrator.

For guidelines on writing the thesis, visit the following websites for information.

- Thesis Template Documents
- Thesis Format Guidelines
- Frequently Asked Questions

When the student is ready to defend, the student then receives an initialed Approval of Candidacy form, which is signed by members of the student’s committee upon passing the M.S. defense. One week prior to defending (a minimum of 7 full days), the student must submit the following information to the Office of GPS, via the Rice Events Calendar: defense date, time, location, title and abstract, as well as the names, titles and departments of committee members.

The Approval of Candidacy form is copied to the student’s file and submitted to GPS. The student has six months to submit his/her signed thesis to GPS, at which time the student becomes a Master’s Degree Candidate. Students must satisfactorily complete all required coursework prior to submitting a final thesis. Degrees will not be awarded until all coursework requirements are completed. Additionally, if a student plans to defend and submit a thesis for the next degree conferral, students must file their applications for approval of Ph.D. and M.A./M.S. candidacy in the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies by the end of October for December degree conferral and by the end of February for May degree conferral.

For full information, visit http://graduate.rice.edu/thesis/.

Ph.D. Candidacy and Defense

In order to petition for Ph.D. degree candidacy, a student must have completed 90 semester hours of advanced studies as approved by the program and achieved at least a 3.0(B) average overall, and earned a Master of Science degree from Rice University, or have an equivalent Master of Science degree, as decided by the APCAC. The student must also have completed any grading requirements for the host department and obtain approval signature from the program chair on the petition form.

The Petition for Approval of Ph.D. Candidacy form is then submitted to the Graduate Program Administrator before the start of the 9th semester (fifth year). The administrator will provide the statement of applicable department requirements, a copy of the transcript, and the student’s checklist to candidacy. The Program Chair’s signature is required on the petition, which is then submitted to the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS) for approval.

For guidelines on writing the thesis, visit the following websites for information.
- Thesis Template Documents
- Thesis Format Guidelines
- Frequently Asked Questions

When the student is ready to defend, the student then receives an initialed Approval of Candidacy form that is signed by the student’s committee members upon passing the Ph.D. defense. Two weeks prior to defending (a minimum of 14 full days), the student must submit the following information to the Office of GPS and the Rice Events Calendar: defense date, time, location, title and abstract, as well as the names, titles and departments of committee members.
The Approval of Candidacy form is copied to the student’s file and submitted to the Office of GPS. The student has 6 months to submit a signed thesis to the Office of GPS, at which time the student becomes a Doctoral Degree Candidate.

Additionally, if a student plans to defend and submit a thesis for the next degree conferral, students must file their applications for approval of Ph.D. and M.A./M.S. candidacy in the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies by the end of October for December degree conferral and before the end of February for May degree conferral.

For full information, visit http://graduate.rice.edu/thesis/.

4.3 Degree Candidate Status

Degree Candidate Status indicates the student has completed all requirements for the degree and all that remains is degree conferral in January or May.

Very Important Deadlines

Spring 2017:

Friday, January 27, 2017 - Last day to complete late registration, add courses, withdraw with a 100% refund of tuition and fees

Friday, February 24, 2017 - Last day to file the following in the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies for a May 2017 degree conferral:
  • Thesis master’s candidacy petitions
  • Ph.D. candidacy petitions

Friday, February 24, 2017 – Last day to file an application for December 2016 degree conferral with the Office of the Registrar

Friday, April 14, 2017 - Last day to register for Fall 2017 by 5:00 PM without a Late Registration Fee

Noon, Friday, April 21, 2017 - Deadline for submitting theses to Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies for a mid-year conferral of Degree

5. Financial Support

Students accepted by the Applied Physics program receive a stipend from the Applied Physics Graduate Program for the first 9 months, along with a full tuition grant. Compensation is calculated and paid semi-monthly from August 16 to December 31 and from January 1 to May 15.

Decided no later than March 1 and starting on May 15 at the end of their first year, and continuing throughout subsequent years, APP students will select a faculty advisor and affiliate with that research group, who is then responsible for funding of the student's stipend and research expenses. After
affiliating with a research group, stipend decisions are determined by the faculty advisor and/or the host department. Students are responsible for discussing salary issues with their respective advisors before officially affiliating with the research group. Many Ph.D. students obtain fellowships or grants in addition to that which is provided by Rice.

Summer Support - Students should discuss their summer plans well in advance with their advisors. In order to be paid for the summer by Rice, students must register for at least 6 hours of APPL 800. Students planning a summer internship off-campus (including those in the Houston area) need to get approval from their advisor and the Applied Physics chair. Students must inform the Graduate Program Administrator by April 15 in order to complete the financial arrangements required.

Details for international student internships with regard to Optional Practical Training (OPT) and Curricular Practical Training (CPT) area located at: http://oiss.rice.edu/opt.

Please note that ALL vacation requests must be pre-approved by your advisor. If your day-to-day advisor works outside of Rice University, you must also notify the program administrator to ensure that all Rice requirements and guidelines are met.

6. Best Practices in Mentoring, Progress Reviews, and Program Effectiveness

6.1 First-Year Mentorship and Guidance

At the start of the fall semester, students will meet with members of the APCAC to help them determine which courses to take the first semester and beyond. During the fall semester of the first year, brown bag seminars will be held. These seminars allow students to meet faculty and learn about research being done at Rice University that is pertinent to the APP program, as well as help students find an area of interest, research group and advisor.

During the first year, students will also be assigned a senior Applied Physics student to assist with course selection, finding an advisor, introduction to the Applied Physics Graduate Student Association, familiarization with Rice, and life in Houston.

6.2 Presenting and Publishing Research

Rice University is a graduate research institution where students are expected to publish research papers and present at national/international conferences in the students respective fields. In addition to this, the students will have an opportunity to present on campus in the annual SCI Transdisciplinary Symposium and/or annual SCI Summer Colloquium.

6.3 Annual Reviews

Students and advisors complete a progress report in May of each year to discuss the academic and research progress made in the program towards the awarding of the doctoral degree. See Appendix C
for the 2016 student progress report. These reviews are collected and evaluated by the APP leadership. If there is any difficulty with a student progressing in the program, a meeting between the student, advisor, and chair of the program will occur each semester until such issues can be resolved.

6.4 Graduating Students and Alumni

Graduating Applied Physics students are asked to complete an exit interview and occasional surveys are sent to alumni to obtain their continued feedback and overall perspectives on the program.

7. Graduate Student Associations

The Graduate Student Association (GSA) comprises degree seeking graduate students at Rice University. The GSA mission is to enrich the graduate experience and to represent, support, and promote graduate student interests and values. An integral and essential part of the Rice community, the GSA provides programs and services in aiding in recruitment and retention of graduate students, represents graduate student interests to the University administration, and builds a strong sense of community both on and off campus.

Each department on campus has its own GSA, and although APP is not its own department, it has a non-voting branch. The Applied Physics Graduate Student Association (APGSA) was founded in 2011 to represent the interests of Applied Physics students at Rice. The primary functions and goals of the APGSA are to promote professional growth of graduate students, to serve as a representative in voicing the concerns of its members, and to promote professional and personal relationships amongst graduate students, faculty, and the community. Contact the APP administrator or visit http://sci.rice.edu/apgsa for APGSA details.

8. General Information

8.1 Campus Mail Service

All mail delivered to you using a Rice campus address should include your mail stop. Your mail stop and the location of your campus mailbox will be dependent upon your host department. The mail stop for Applied Physics is 100; if you would like a mailbox in the Smalley-Curl Institute after you affiliate, send an email request to the APP administrator.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Host Department</th>
<th>Mailbox Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physics &amp; Astronomy</td>
<td>2nd Floor, Brockman Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical &amp; Computer Engineering</td>
<td>3rd Floor, Brockman Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacob Robinson Group</td>
<td>2nd Floor, Section “B”, Abercrombie Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bioengineering</td>
<td>BioScience Research Collaborative (BRC)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8.2 Computing

All new students are assigned a Rice Net ID username and password, which gives them access to Rice email and other resources; you can manage your account at https://mynetid.rice.edu/. See the Rice IT web pages at http://it.rice.edu for more information about computing resources.

Many research groups maintain their own specialized computing facilities. They will become available to the student after affiliating with the research group.

8.3 Study Areas, Building Access, Office Space, Telephone Service

Specific information on study areas, building access, telephone service will be determined by the Applied Physics administrator for your first year, and your advisor’s host department in subsequent years. Check with the host department program administrator or coordinator regarding convenient study areas, as well as getting after-hours access to the building, office space, and telephone service.

8.4 Purchasing and Expenditures

After affiliation with a research group, you may be asked to make purchases or incur other expenses on behalf of your research project. University accountants are very stringent in their interpretation of federal, state, local, and university rules that control such expenditures. Please take careful note of those policies and consult with a staff member before incurring any expense. Under no circumstances are personal items to be charged to any university or research account.

8.5 Procurement

Procurement regulations change frequently. You are advised to consult the purchasing coordinator in your host department before attempting to make any purchases for their specific department guidelines.

8.6 Office Supplies

Office supplies purchased by the department or research grants may not be used for any personal purpose, including course work. All costs of thesis preparation, defense and submission are the responsibility of the candidate. This specifically includes paper, transparencies and printing or copying costs for drafts, defense, and library versions.

8.7 Copying Services

Check with your host department for the location and usage of copiers available for research and departmental use as needed (this will be managed by SCI for first-year students who have not yet affiliated). You may be given a charge code for the appropriate machine.

Note that government funds cannot be used to prepare an application for a government grant and that personal use of copies is not allowed.
There is a large-format (36” wide) color printer located in Geology. Department staff can provide access on how to access this unit. Large format printing is also available through IT (in the MUDD building) at lower cost.

8.8 Mailing and Shipping

All items to be mailed or shipped must be routed through the main department office. Department staff will help you arrange an appropriate carrier and payment.

8.9 Travel

Student travel must be authorized by the principal investigator of the project to which the travel will be charged. The host department may be able to provide supplemental funds for students presenting papers at meetings, but only for one trip per year. Contact the host department administrator or coordinator to request assistance with travel and for rules and regulations regarding travel.

9. Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies Office (GPS)

9.1 Guidelines for Dismissals, Petitions, Appeals, Grievances, and Problem Resolution

These goals of these guidelines are to obtain compliance with Rice’s policies while striving to uphold standards and raise the quality of graduate programs, as well as to provide graduate students with an environment that has high standards, clear assessments of their achievements, and fair and transparent procedures for handling cases of inadequate academic progress. See http://graduate.rice.edu/student/dismissal.aspx for details.

9.2 Leaves or Withdrawals

Leaves or withdrawals include short-term medical and parental release, leaves of absence, medical and non-medical withdrawal, and involuntary withdrawal. Readmission and non-enrollment restrictions are also included.

9.3 Funding and Stipends

Most graduate students are provided with stipends of one kind or another for the duration of their graduate study at Rice, and many departments offer multi-year financial assistance to students who are making normal progress towards a graduate degree. For more information, visit http://graduate.rice.edu/funding.

Please note that ALL vacation requests must be pre-approved by your advisor. If your day-to-day advisor works outside of Rice University, you must also notify the program administrator to ensure that all Rice requirements and guidelines are met.
9.4 Time Boundaries

In addition to the student’s individualized time boundaries in Esther, general time boundaries can be found on the GPS website at: http://graduate.rice.edu/timeboundaries/

9.5 Thesis Information

Please read the information at http://graduate.rice.edu/thesis for achieving candidacy, defending and submitting your thesis.

9.6 Graduate Form Library

The Graduate Form Library contains a list of up-to-date forms for graduate students including:

- Candidacy Petitions
- Requests for Extension of Time to Candidacy
- Defense Announcements
- Requests for Extension of Time to Defend
- Thesis Submission Forms
- Degree Conferral Forms
- Commencement

9.7 Guidelines for Good Practices in Graduate Education

High-quality graduate education depends upon professional and ethical conduct by all participants. Although Rice University is composed of many distinct disciplines and programs, we, its faculty and students, nevertheless form a single scholarly community. As such we have communal responsibilities for upholding academic standards and sustaining a creative, collegial environment. See http://graduate.rice.edu/student/goodpractices.aspx for more information.

9.8 Digital Scholarship Archive

Rice Digital Scholarship Archive (https://scholarship.rice.edu) is Rice's institutional repository, a web site where the university's intellectual output is shared, managed, searched, and preserved. Most materials come from Rice faculty members' research, electronic theses and dissertations, and digitized collections of rare or unique books, images, musical performances, and manuscripts.

10. Office of the Registrar (OTR)

Academic Calendars - https://registrar.rice.edu/calendars
Course Schedule - http://courses.rice.edu/admweb/swkscat.main
Forms for Current and Graduate Students - https://registrar.rice.edu/online_forms
11. General Announcements (GA)

Rice University General Announcements - http://ga.rice.edu/GR_students/

The GA includes information about academic opportunities, academic policies and procedures, student services and organizations, student rights and responsibilities and more.

12. Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS)

International Students - http://oiss.rice.edu/student

Includes the following:
- Obtaining I-20 for F-1 visa
- Short-term Visiting Research Students
- Pre-Arrival Information
- Orientation
- Maintaining Status
- Academic Resources
- Employment
- Students on OPT
- Travel

13. Student Health Insurance and Services

Health Insurance

Rice University requires all students to have health insurance coverage. Therefore, students may enroll in the Rice Student Health Insurance Plan by completing a Health Insurance Application or request a Waiver of insurance if comparable coverage is in place with another insurance provider. Visit http://studenthealthinsurance.rice.edu/ for more information.

Student Health Services

The Rice Student Health Services provides preventive and outpatient clinical care for the students of Rice University. Student Health is located on-campus and is dedicated to meeting the unique needs of undergraduate and graduate students, with an emphasis on prevention. Their website is http://www.rice.edu/health/.

Students may not register for classes until the Health Data Form has been properly completed and submitted to Student Health Services.
The Rice Wellness Center

The Rice Wellness Center website offers a variety of resources to help you navigate your well-being journey, from topics on common student concerns, to opportunities for more involvement in wellness, and more. It also includes information on the Rice Counseling Center.

14. Title IX

Rice encourages any student who has experienced an incident of sexual, relationship, or other interpersonal violence, harassment or gender discrimination to seek support. There are many options available both on and off campus for all graduate students, regardless of whether the perpetrator was a fellow student, a staff or faculty member, or someone not affiliated with the university.

Students should be aware when seeking support on campus that most employees are required by Title IX to disclose all incidents of non-consensual interpersonal behaviors to Title IX professionals on campus who can act to support that student and meet their needs. The therapists at the Rice Counseling Center and the doctors at Student Health Services are confidential, meaning that Rice will not be informed about the incident if a student discloses to one of these Rice staff members. Rice prioritizes student privacy and safety, and only shares disclosed information on a need-to-know basis.

If you are in need of assistance or simply would like to talk to someone, please call Rice Wellbeing and Counseling Center, which includes Title IX Support:

Extension 3311 or 713-348-3311

Policies, including Sexual Misconduct Policy and Student Code of Conduct, and more information regarding Title IX can be found at safe.rice.edu.
APPENDIX A
Some Suggested Specialization Curricula within the Applied Physics Program

Please note that the below courses are not a full list of possible electives for each specialization area.

Applied Biological and Soft Matter Physics
Suggested core courses: BIOE 502, CHBE 501, CHBE 540, PHYS 515

Suggested elective courses:
- BIOE 551 Molecular Biophysics
- BIOE 584 Lasers in Medicine and Bioengineering
- BIOE 589 Computational Molecular Biophysics
- BIOE/PHYS 610 Methods of Molecular Simulation
- BIOE 684 Advanced Biophotonics
- CHBE 560 Colloidal and Interfacial Phenomena
- MSNE 555 Materials in Nature and Biometric Strategies
- MSNE/CHBE/CHM 597 Polymer Synthesis, Soft Materials & Nanocomposites
- PHYS 551 Biological Particles
- PHYS 552 Molecular Biophysics

Applied Chemical Physics
Suggested core courses: CHEM 530, CHBE 501, PHYS 526, PHYS 563

Suggested elective courses:
- BIOE/PHYS 610 Methods of Molecular Simulation
- CHEM 531 Quantum Mechanics II/Quantum Chemistry
- CHEM 533 Nanostructure & Nanotechnology
- CHEM 547 Supramolecular Chemistry
- CHEM 595 Transition Metal Chemistry
- CHEM 630 Molecular Spectroscopy and Group Theory
- CHBE 560 Colloidal and Interfacial Phenomena
- CHBE 590 Kinetics, Catalysis and Reaction Engineering
- CHBE 615 Applications of Molecular Simulations and Statistical Mechanics
- CHBE 630 Chemical Engineering of Nanostructured Materials
- PHYS 539 Characterization and Fabrication at the Nanoscale
Applied Mathematical and Computational Physics
Suggested core courses: CHBE 501, CHEM 520, PHYS 516, PHYS 532

Suggested elective courses:

- BIOE/PHY 610 Methods of Molecular Simulation
- CAAM 615 Theoretical Neuroscience I: Biophysical Modeling of Cells and Circuits
- CHBE 615 Applications of Molecular Simulations and Statistical Mechanics
- CHEM 531 Advanced Quantum Chemistry
- ELEC 581 Computational Neuroscience and Neural Engineering
- MECH 520 Nonlinear Finite Element Analysis
- MSNE 533 Computational Materials Modeling
- PHYS 516 Mathematical Models
- PHYS 517 Computational Methods
- PHYS/ELEC 605 Computational Electrodynamics and Nanophotonics

Applied Mechanics
Suggested core courses: CHBE 501, CHBE 540, PHYS 515, PHYS 516

Suggested elective courses:

- CHBE 602 Physio-Chemical Hydrodynamics
- CHBE 603 Rheology
- CHBE 630 Chemical Engineering of Nanostructured Materials
- MSNE 523 Properties, Synthesis, and Design of Composite Materials
- MSNE 535 Crystallography and Diffraction
- MSNE 623 Analytical Spectroscopies: Tools in Materials Science
- MSNE 634 Thermodynamics of Alloys
- MSNE 650 Nanomaterials and Nanomechanics

Applied Optics & Photonics
Suggested core courses: PHYS 521, PHYS 526, PHYS 532, PHYS 563

Suggested elective courses:

- BIOE 587 Optical Imaging and Nanobiophotonics
- BIOE 684 Advanced Biophotonics
- ELEC 562 Optoelectronic Devices
- ELEC 568 Laser Spectroscopy
- ELEC/PHY 569 Ultrafast Optical Phenomena
- ELEC 571 Imaging at the Nanoscale
- ELEC 573 Optical Spectroscopy of Nanomaterials
- ELEC 603 Topics in Micro- and Nano-Photonics
PHYS 571  
Modern Atomic Physics and Quantum Optics

Applied Physical Electronics
Suggested core courses:  PHYS 516, PHYS 521, PHYS 532, PHYS 563

Suggested elective courses:

CHEM 511  Spectral Methods in Chemistry
ELEC 562  Optoelectronic Devices
ELEC 573  Optical Spectroscopy of Nanomaterials
ELEC 680  Nano-Neurotechnology
MSNE 623  Analytical Spectroscopies: Tools in Materials Science
PHYS 522  Quantum Mechanics II
PHYS 539  Characterization and Fabrication at the Nanoscale
PHYS 567  Quantum Materials
PHYS 663  Condensed Matter Theory: Applications
Appendix B: Procedures for Lab Accidents

Graduate Students classified as a Fellow, Teaching Assistant (TA) and/or Research Assistant (RA) injured in the lab at Rice University are covered under Worker’s compensation. Rice Student Health Center does not provide medical services for workers compensation care. Therefore students injured in the lab should not go Rice Health Services. The following protocol should be used for all lab injuries.

**Emergency**

**Call Rice University Police Department at 713-348-6000** (Do not call 911)

- RUPD will dispatch officers to the scene and Rice EMS if needed
- In case Houston Fire Department trucks or ambulances are needed, RUPD will meet them at the entrance gates and guide vehicles to the location
- Be sure to tell the RUPD dispatcher of your location, and clearly describe the incident

**If the incident involves chemicals, biological material, or radioactive materials your supervisor or someone in the laboratory should contact Rice Environmental Health and Safety at 713-348-4444**

- When injury or illness involves a chemical, Safety Data Sheet (SDS) should accompany the victim to the hospital.

- A First Report of Injury Form must be filed with the Director of Risk Management, VP for Administration (MS-670)

- An Accident/Incident Report must be submitted to your Department head and Environmental Health and Safety. The form is available on the Environmental Safety website at [http://safety.rice.edu/](http://safety.rice.edu/)

**Administer First Aid, if necessary**

**Evacuate the area, if necessary.**

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**Non-Emergency**

Minor medical injuries/illness occurring in the workplace should be reported immediately to the injured party’s supervisor. The supervisor should fill out a First Report of Injury Form (available from Risk Management [http://riskmanagement.rice.edu/workerscomp.cfmt](http://riskmanagement.rice.edu/workerscomp.cfmt) or Environmental Health and Safety [http://safety.rice.edu/](http://safety.rice.edu/)). Submit this form to either Renee Block at rab@rice.edu or Ana Robledo at arobledo@rice.edu as soon as possible. You can also fax the report to 713-348-4285.

If non-emergency medical attention is needed, the student should seek treatment at NOVA Clinic (workers compensation care) located 9563 Main Street. Contact Risk Management for an appointment. If transportation is not available, a request can be submitted to NOVA to provide transport.
Appendix C: Graduate Student Annual Progress Report

APPL Graduate Student Annual Progress Report 2016
May 2015 - May 2016

Please note: ALL fields are required.

Student and Advisor Information

Student Name *

First

Last

Student Email *

Student ID Number *

S

Must be between 9 and 9 characters. Currently Used: 1 characters.

Host Department *

--Select one--

Matriculation Year *

Advisor Name *

First

Last

Advisor Email *


On a scale of 1-5, where 5=best/great, please answer the following.

1. Please rate your research progress the past year: *
   - 1
   - 2
   - 3
   - 4
   - 5

2. Please rate your enthusiasm and industriousness: *
   - 1
   - 2
   - 3
   - 4
   - 5

3. Please rate the experience in your research group: *
   - 1
   - 2
   - 3
   - 4
   - 5

Enter the total rating for 1, 2, and 3 above *

Please fill in your scholarly communication details from the last year

1. How many papers did you submit in the last year? *
   - 0
   - 1
   - 2
   - 3+

2. How many conferences did you present at? *
   - 0
   - 1
   - 2
   - 3+

Enter the total for 1 and 2 above *
**Evaluation Information**
A description of the section goes here.

In your own words, describe in a few sentences how things are going.
(Includes data collection, data analysis, and research design.) *

---

**What do you hope to accomplish in the next year?** *

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**Grading/Teaching**

What teaching experiences did you have over the past year? (Check all that apply) *

- [ ] Grader
- [ ] TA
- [ ] Taught
- [ ] Co-Taught
- [ ] None of the above

Indicate below the classes(es) in which you graded/taught
(ex: PHYS 515 Fall 2015 grader) *

Submit