

TIMESTEP

All events will be Wednesdays @ 5:00 - 6:30 pm, unless marked otherwise

Website: <https://timestep.arizona.edu>

Fall 2025 Schedule

TIMESTEP Summer Tech Internship Symposium

September 3rd, 5:00 – 7:30 pm: ENR2 building, S107

Our 20 summer interns will be sharing their experiences working with local tech industry partners. They'll talk about the projects they worked on, what they most valued from the experience, what skills they learned, and the impact the experience had on them as they move forward in their education and career. Attendees will include UA faculty, administrators, and staff, as well as students and local employers, so it's a great opportunity to network! [RSVP here](#)

Navigating the Astronomy and Physics Majors (and Tamale Dinner!)

Presenters: Dr. Gurtina Besla (Professor of Astronomy and TIMESTEP Director), Kristy Merdinger (astro/physics academic advisor), Suhani Surana (TIMESTEP student leader)

September 10th: Steward Observatory, room 204

Join us for a beginning of the year student mixer and opportunity to learn about the supports available for astronomy and physics majors and minors. We will help you think strategically about planning your courses and out-of-class experiences (research, internships, jobs, study abroad, etc.) to best prepare you for either graduate school applications or to be competitive in the job market.

Preparing for Research and Grad School: A Pathway for Years 1-3

Presenter: Dr. Gurtina Besla

September 17th: Steward Observatory, N305

Learn from an expert! Dr. Gurtina Besla will provide an overview of how to best set yourself up for a successful experience doing research and ultimately applying to graduate school. This will cover the decisions you'll make in the first three years of your program, such as how to prepare academically for research, how to identify research opportunities, and how to document your work. This introductory presentation will lead to more targeted workshops for seniors to prepare their graduate school applications (October meetings) and any student to apply for research experiences (November meetings).

Graduate Student Panel

Facilitator: Christa DeCoursey, U of A grad student in Astrophysics

September 24th: On Zoom, <https://arizona.zoom.us/j/82615759625>

A panel of U of A physics and astronomy alumni who are now in graduate school will share the realities of graduate school and why they chose to pursue a Masters or PhD. This can help you decide if graduate school is right for you and if so, how to increase your chance of acceptance to the school of your choice.

International Scholars Forum

October 8th: PAS 236

International students face unique challenges studying in the U.S., from navigating cultural differences to having fewer opportunities for research and internships due to funding restrictions, ITAR regulations, and the

need for CPT authorization. This forum will allow international students majoring in physics and astronomy to network, share resources, and get support from each other and the TIMESTEP team.

Overview of Graduate School Application Process

Presenter: Dr. Gurtina Besla

October 15th: Steward Observatory, N305

Get specific guidance from faculty members involved in the grad review process at U of A about what's involved in applying for graduate school and how to set yourself up to be competitive. We will include information about opportunities both in the U.S. and abroad, with suggestions for your application and access to templates to help write your application materials.

Graduate School Application Workshops

October 22nd in PAS 236

October 29th in SO N305

And by individual appointment the weeks of Oct 27 and Nov 3

These workshops are specifically for seniors applying to graduate school. Get your materials- personal and/or research statements- for grad school edited and reviewed by faculty and get personalized advice on which schools might be a good fit for you. Students must sign up for workshops in advance.

Undergraduate Research Student Panel

November 12th: PAS 236

Hear from your peers about when to get involved in research, how to find a project and approach professors, how to apply for national/international fellowships and how to find a *paid* research position. This discussion will include research at U of A, summer REUs, and research internships.

Undergraduate Research Application Workshop

November 19th: Steward Observatory, N305

Make a plan to obtain a position doing research that you find compelling! Faculty and graduate students will assist you in narrowing down areas of research that interest you, identifying opportunities available, and planning your application- materials needed, requesting reference letters, and making deadlines. Get a head start on writing your research statement and get personalized advice on which research opportunities might be a good fit for you.