

Department of Physics and Astronomy

Committee Assignments for Academic Year 2026/27

Executive Committee on Appointments and Promotions (ECAP)

The ECAP meets to discuss and vote on hiring decisions and promotions within the Department of Physics and Astronomy, as outlined by the Academic Articles and the departmental Organization Plan. The committee also serves as an advisory body to the Department Chair.

Morten Eskildsen (Chair)

Ani Aprahamian

Christopher Howk

Boldizsár Jankó

Christopher Kolda

Rebecca Surman

Awards (external)

The Awards Committee works with the Department Chair to help identify and nominate faculty members worthy of external recognition with awards such as APS and AAAS Fellowships. The Department Chair participates when needed.

Mitchell Wayne (Chair)

Ani Aprahamian

László Forró

Umesh Garg

Peter Garnavich

Shelly Goethals

Michael Hildreth

Awards (internal)

The Awards Committee works with the Department Chair to select faculty and student candidates for internal Notre Dame awards. The Department Chair, ADUS, DUS, DGS and the Chair of the Undergraduate Research Committee participate when needed.

Christopher Kolda (Chair)

Dinshaw Balsara

Daniel Bardayan

Shelly Goethals

Boldizsár Jankó

Grant Mathews

Zoltan Toroczka

Colloquium

The Colloquium Committee works with the broader faculty to identify and bring to Notre Dame a diverse group of interesting speakers to present their research on current topics in physics and astronomy. The committee typically has members from each of the major research areas in the department, as well as one graduate student.

László Forró (Chair)

Dipanjan Chaudhuri

Antonio Delgado

Kelly Durrenberger

Evan Kirby

Ragnar Stroberg

Marie Tagliavia

Michael Wiescher

Course Offering

The Course Offering Committee, in consultation with the Department Chair, is responsible for determining which courses should be taught each semester and for assigning the corresponding instructors. The committee shall have representation across the departments research areas. The ADUS, DUS and DGS serve as ex officio members of the committee and do not represent a research area.

Christopher Howk (Chair)

Kristen Amsler

Badih Assaf

Evan Kirby

Mark Caprio

Philippe Collon (DUS)

Corrine Deegan (ADUS)

Colin Jessop

Zoltan Toroczka

Anna Simon-Robertson (DGS)

Data and Computation

The Data and Computation Committee addresses specific computer needs of the faculty and also represent the Department of Physics and Astronomy in broader, campus wide computing issues. Typically, the Committee Chair serves on the College of Science Computing Committee.

Mark Caprio (Chair)

Dinshaw Balsara

Abhisek Datta

Kateryna Foyevtsova

John LoSecco

Dervis Vural

Demonstrations & Instructional Labs

The Demonstrations and Instructional Labs Committee oversees the maintenance and upgrades of the Department's instructional laboratory assets and courses (including the observatory) as well as the demonstration equipment used in lecture courses. The committee is expected to collaborate with the Course Offering Committee and the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee as needed.

Thomas Loughran (Chair)

Matthew Becker

Maxime Brodeur

Keith Davis

Xiaolong Liu

John LoSecco

Arielle Phillips

Jenna Smith

Advanced Laboratory Steering Committee

The Advanced Laboratory Steering Committee provides guidance to the instructor of the advanced labs as well as oversight of the experiments and their performance. It performs the same role for the Jordan Hall of Science Observatory.

Laura Fields (Chair)

Ani Aprahamian

Philippe Collon (DUS)

Justin Crepp

Evan Kirby

Xiaolong Liu

Patrick O'Malley

Anna Simon-Robertson (DGS)

David Robertson

Future Faculty

The Future Faculty Committee maintains a list of promising future faculty candidates based on input from members of the Department, and should seek to keep these engaged to lay the groundwork for possible recruitment. The committee also provides suggestions to the College of Science for candidates to be invited for the annual Future Faculty Workshop.

Peter Garnavich (Chair)

Yi-Ting Hsu

Maxime Brodeur

Adam Martin

Ombudsperson

The Ombudsperson provides a safe forum for the graduate students, undergraduates and junior faculty to present complaints or discuss issues. To be effective, the Ombudsperson has the discretion to keep complaints anonymous except where this may conflict with Title IX reporting rules.

Peter Garnavich

Outreach

The Outreach Committee works with the department faculty as well as with local teachers and students to inform and involve the broader community with the Department of Physics and Astronomy. It also serves as a liaison to potential and established education and outreach programs. The committee may also contain graduate students recommended by the Committee Chair or DGS.

Keith Davis (Chair)

Kristen Amsler

Matt Becker

Joel Burke

Kenneth Cecire

Philip Sakimoto

Petr Stepanov

Rebecca Surman

Lauren Weiss

Lauren Yates

Arthur Zhao (from Jan. '27)

Research Services

The Research Services committee is responsible for developing and overseeing the operation of stand-alone or community research facilities within the Department of Physics and Astronomy, including the machine shop.

Nirmal Ghimire (Chair)

Justin Crepp

Abhisek Datta

Umesh Garg

Xinyu Liu

Daniel Robertson

Safety

The Safety Committee deals with safety issues across the Department of Physics and Astronomy, and has responsibility for working with faculty to maintain safe laboratory environments. When appropriate, the committee may be called upon to work with the Jordan Hall of Science Safety Committee. The Department Chair attends all meetings of the Safety Committee. The Committee Chair serves as the Department of Physics and Astronomy's Safety Officer.

Ed Stech (Chair)

Tan Ahn

Jeffrey Chilcote

Ali Hanks

Colin Jessop

Dafei Jin

Xinyu Liu

Daniel Robertson

Dan Ruggiero

Space Development & Utilization

The Space Development and Utilization Committee primarily focuses on the assignment of research space to members of the physics and astronomy faculty. More global issues of departmental space may also be brought to the committee as needed.

Antonio Delgado (Chair)

Daniel Bardayan

László Forró

Shelly Goethals

Grant Mathews

Mitchell Wayne

Values and Excellence

This Committee on Values and Excellence works with the Department Chair to build and sustain a welcoming culture of respectful collaboration and scientific excellence for all students, postdocs, faculty and staff.

Rebecca Surman (Chair)

Kateryna Foyevtsova

Peter Garnavich

Judith Höller (from Jan. '27)

Kevin Lannon

Lili Lommel

Adam Martin

Jenna Smith

Director of Graduate Admissions (DGA)
Sylwia Ptasinska

Graduate Admissions

The Graduate Admissions Committee reviews all applications to the graduate program and recommends admission of selected candidates to the Department Chair. Members of the committee are expected to meet with colleagues in their research areas in order to discuss needs for graduate student.

Sylwia Ptasinska (Chair)

Tan Ahn

Justin Crepp

Manoel Couder

Antonio Delgado

Laura Fields

Lori Fuson

Nirmal Ghimire

Dafei Jin

Arielle Phillips

Zoltan Toroczka

Graduate Recruitment

The Graduate Recruitment Committee has two major responsibilities. The first is to advertise the Department of Physics and Astronomy's graduate program and encourage a large pool of qualified students to apply. The second is to help persuade admitted applicants to choose our graduate program. The committee plays an important role organizing the graduate recruitment weekend each spring semester.

Maxime Brodeur (Chair)

Jeff Chilcote

Dipanjan Chaudhuri

Manoel Couder (liaison to admissions committee only)

Kateryna Foyevtsova

Lori Fuson

Judith Höller (from Jan. '27)

Marc Osherson

Nirupama Sensharma

Berry Tang

Matt Toole

Yuhsin Tsai

Lauren Weiss

Director of Graduate Studies (DGS)
Anna Simon-Robertson

Graduate Curriculum

The Graduate Curriculum Committee works with the DGS to monitor and maintain the course offerings for graduate students in the Department of Physics and Astronomy. The committee is also charged with reviewing and assessing any proposed changes to the graduate curriculum.

Anna Simon-Robertson (Chair)

Olivia Bruce

Lori Fuson

Ali Hanks

Christopher Howk

Boldizsár Jankó

Ragnar Stroberg

Lauren Yates

Preliminary Exam

The Preliminary Exam committee is responsible for creating, administering and grading the graduate preliminary exams given periodically throughout the year.

Tan Ahn (Chair)

Dinshaw Balsara

John LoSecco

Nirupama Sensharma

Petr Stepanov

Dervis Vural

Arthur Zhao (from Jan. '27)

Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS)
Philippe Collon

Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies (ADUS)
Corrine Deegan

Undergraduate Curriculum

The Undergraduate Curriculum Committee works with the DUS and ADUS to monitor and maintain the course offerings by the Department of Physics and Astronomy for all undergraduate students. The committee is also charged with reviewing and assessing any proposed changes to the undergraduate curriculum.

Philippe Collon (Chair)

Manoel Couder

Corrine Deegan

Evan Kirby

Grant Matthews

Marc Osherson

Sylwia Ptasinska

David Robertson

Undergraduate Research

The Undergraduate Research Committee works with the departmental faculty and with offices throughout the College and University, to provide research opportunities for all interested majors in the Department of Physics and Astronomy. The committee is also responsible for reviewing and approving the senior thesis for students completing the Honors Track in Physics.

Badih Assaf (Chair)

Daniel Bardayan

Jeff Chilcote

Umesh Garg

Colin Jessop

Xiaolong Liu

David Robertson

Yuhsin Tsai

Lauren Weiss

SPS Faculty Advisor

Acts as a liaison between the Department and the SPS and leads the selection process for undergraduates inducted into the SPS.

Manoel Couder