

Princeton University

Department of Physics: Joseph Henry Laboratories

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Dear Applicant,

In writing your essay, you might want to keep in mind that we are mainly interested in your interest in physics and in your undergraduate experience in physics or related subjects (math, engineering, etc...). A list of questions you might want to address are given below. Feel free, however, to add any other information that you consider relevant.

- a) What background in math, physics, or other sciences have you had that is beyond the usual curriculum of the physics major and that you think is important for us to know?
- b) What research experiences have you had? If you have made important or original contributions, please explain what they are and, if relevant, how they have influenced your interest in physics.
- c) Are you planning to do experimental or theoretical physics, or are you undecided? If your physics courses or research experience has influenced you in this decision, explain how.
- d) What kinds of physics are you most interested in pursuing in graduate school, and why? What has influenced you in this decision?
- e) The research program of our faculty is on the web. Give examples of groups and faculty with whom you might be interested in working. Please see: <http://www.princeton.edu/physics/research/>
- f) What special aspects of your personality, talents, interests and skills make you think that you will be a good physicist?

Sincerely yours,

Herman Verlinde
Director of Graduate Studies

Jessica Heslin
Graduate Administrator
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