Week in the life of an astronomy PhD student

ASTR 2910 * Week 9

Components of grad life

Research

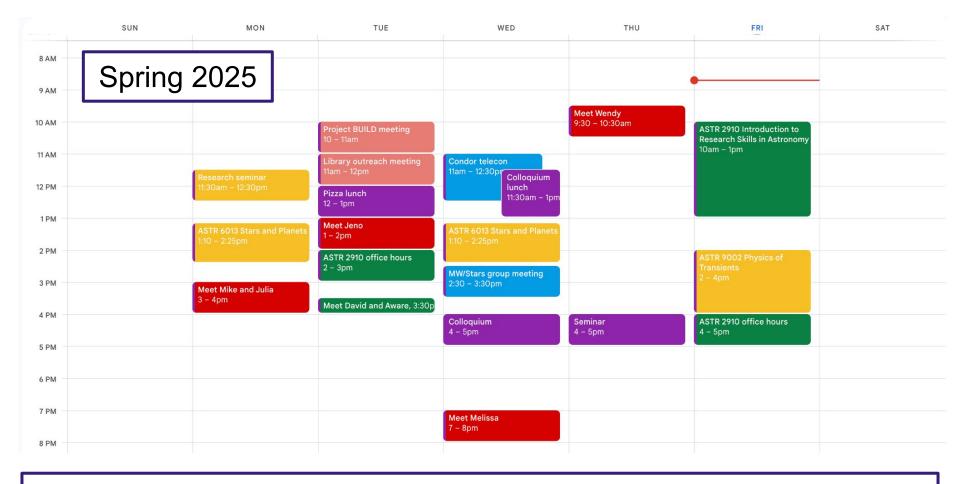
- Years 1-2: Work year-round, but most progress is made over the summers
- Years 3+: Research becomes your main focus

Teaching

- Usually concentrated in first two years
- Two distinct roles: teaching assistant (TA) or lead instructor

Classes

- Requirement for master's degree, taken in years 1-2
- Lighter course load than undergrad (2-3 classes/semester)
- Department events and service
- Extras: public outreach, mentoring undergrads, etc



Class: 5.5h Department: 4.5h Research: 4h Teaching: 2.25h Extras: 2.5h

Notes on my schedule

- 1. I fill the gaps with research work, teaching prep, department service (grad job, etc), and a little bit of homework
- 2. In past semesters: 5-10h of research work per week!
- 3. In future semesters: no more classes or teaching

Time spent on teaching/classes will vary between programs, but the general concentration in the first two years is universal.