

# Yale Physics Graduate Program Exit Interviews

## Objectives

The exit interview is an opportunity for the department to learn about student experiences in our program and to receive feedback on our program and the department as a whole. The directions and scope of the conversation depends on the student's interests and experiences. The exit interview is scheduled after the student has completed all degree requirements to allow for an open and confidential conversation. The exit interview is a conversation with the Chair or DGS, whoever the student prefers. Below is a sample list of questions that might be asked to prompt the conversation. Additional questions may be added to this list over time. Suggestions are welcome. The DGS and Chair will take the information and feedback from the exit interviews into account to guide future improvements of the graduate program.

## Possible Questions

- What academic and personal goals have you achieved during your time in the program?
- How do those goals compare to what you aspired to achieve at the beginning of the program?
- Has your academic and research experience been what you expected it to be? Why or why not?
- What was the most challenging aspect of your research experience and how did you meet that challenge? Did you face other academic, personal challenges while trying to complete the program?
- What was the most rewarding aspect of your physics graduate student experience? Why was it so rewarding?
- Do you have negative research experiences or issues with the graduate program we should discuss?
- If you were asked to help recruit new students to the program, what would you be sure to tell them?
- What career goals and aspirations do you have now? Are they different from when you started the program?
- Do you feel the program has prepared you for your future career? What skills will be useful in your future career and what skills do you wish could have been further developed?
- What advice would you give to new students just starting the program?