



Summer Research in the Physics & Astronomy Department

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Professor of physics

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Research at Swarthmore College

Swarthmore students play a vital role in research achievements at the College!

1. Great deal of research with faculty occurs during the summer
2. Faculty-led research teams participate in ongoing research programs to learn exciting science
3. Experience is vastly different from classes and highlights aspects of careers in research



Bester research group:
Nox Tan, Leilani Fleming,
and Cacey Bester



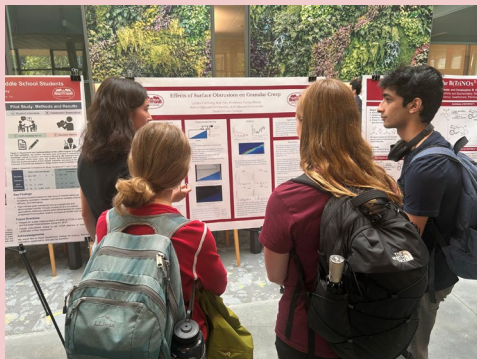
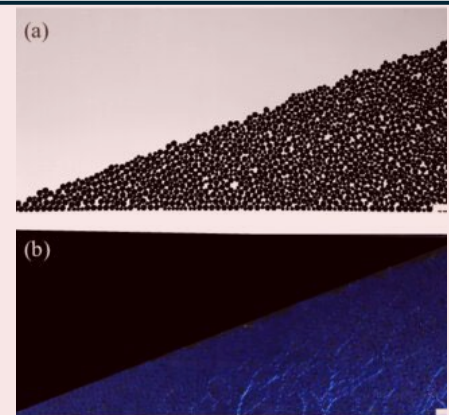
Research at Swarthmore College

Swarthmore students are trained in every stage of the research process!

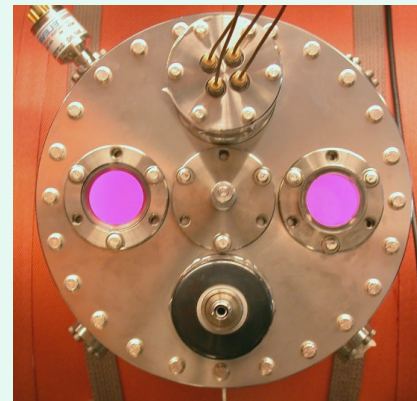


Visit national labs

Co-author peer reviewed publications



Give presentations at conferences



Learn experimental design, coding, and instrumentation



Research in physics and astronomy

1. Expectations of summer research students
2. Time commitment
3. Application process
4. Selection process
5. Research student panel
6. Q&A period



Expectations

- Take initiative and responsibility
 - Learning a new research project takes lots of time and commitment
- Engage fully and give it your best
 - It's okay to make mistakes - learn and grow from them
- Be a valuable colleague
 - Supportive and respectful team member
 - Be reliable



Time commitment

- Full-time in-person job for 8-10 weeks, sometime May 25 - August 8
 - Do not take another job
 - Plan specific dates (including any interruptions for vacation) with your faculty advisor ("PI")
before accepting the position
- 2024 stipend was \$6000; summer housing fee was \$1450 (10 weeks)



Application process

- Watch short videos about faculty research
- Contact faculty whose research interests you if you have questions
- Apply by Dec 5 (Google Form)
- You will be notified by January: offered position, wait list, no position
- Some faculty will ask you to commit in January
- If offered a position or wait listed, apply for College funding in late January/early February



Application process

- Choose 1 or 2 faculty in whose work you are “very interested”
- Choose 2 faculty in whose work you are “interested”
- Provide thoughtful response to research interests and goals
- Indicate if you are willing to commit in January or if you prefer to also apply for other opportunities
- Indicate if you want to start research position in the spring



Selection process

- We seek applicants who have demonstrated commitment, reliability, and ability to take responsibility for independent learning.
 - Applicants mostly demonstrate this through how they engage in classes.
- Many faculty value continuity and prioritize students who return for a second summer or will continue research during the year.

Note that research positions are not guaranteed



Student Panel

Introductory questions:

1. Introduce yourself (name, year, major).
2. State your summer project and who you worked with.
3. Briefly describe the day-to-day experience of doing research.
4. Most rewarding outcome from your research experience?