

## ***What is the Industrial Practicum?***

- ***Purpose***

The Physics Department recognizes the importance of the many aspects contributing to students facing the job market for their future employment. In particular, it is crucial that students understand how to apply their knowledge of fundamental principles, acquired in the PhD curriculum, in a non-academic setting. In this regard, the Industrial Practicum (IP) is an essential part of all PhD students' education. The purpose of the IP is that each PhD student develops and completes a project in partnership with the sponsoring agency, the PhD advisor and committee. This experience will give each student the opportunity to apply his/her knowledge in a non-academic environment, develop relationship with potential future employers, and enhance their career opportunities.

- ***IP Sites***

PhD students may complete the IP requirement at any national or international industrial firm, company, private agency or government/state research laboratory. If the student intends to pursue a teaching career, he/she may develop and complete a teaching plan for a college level class at any US college or university, however reimbursement funds cannot be obtain.

- ***Form and Duration***

The particular form of each practicum may vary due to the uniqueness of each firm, company, private agency, or government/state research lab. However, the student must have a defined role in accordance with the developed project and the needs of the industrial site. The IP may last from four weeks to one semester under the supervision of an identified staff member of that establishment.

- ***Duckwall Foundation Reimbursement Requirements***

Each practicum is unique. Some companies provide travel stipends, living expenses, and salaries. Other practicums are completely funded by the Duckwall Foundation. In this instance, the students are provided with travel expenses to/from the location where the research will be conducted, as well as living expenses during the course of the student's stay. Students, who pursue teaching experiences in other colleges and universities, may not be reimbursed from the Duckwall Foundation.

- ***IP Application Form***

Each student must complete the IP Application Form to initiate the practicum and establish the grounds of the reimbursement. The Physics Chair makes a final decision of the exact amount each student receives after the specifics (such as IP duration, particular establishment, its location) of the practicum are clarified.

- ***Final Report***

Each student must submit a three-five page report to the Graduate Director or Academic Program Specialist describing the practicum experience. Alternatively, the student may choose to give a presentation to the PhD committee about his/her experience and submit a copy of the presentation instead. The written report or presentation must contain a title page.