

Abstract Submitted  
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**The Physics MS-to-PhD Bridge Program at Florida State University**<sup>1</sup> STEPHEN HILL, FSU, Physics and NHMFL, SIMON CAPSTICK, JEREMIAH MURPHY, FSU, Physics — With joint support from the APS and Florida State University (FSU), we have developed a Bridge Program (BP) aimed at students who lack preparation in one or more areas of undergraduate physics, so that they may go on to enroll in the PhD program at FSU or elsewhere. Students are initially provided housing and a research internship during a 6-week summer program, providing opportunities to familiarize themselves with their new environment and the research culture at FSU. This also allows time for mentoring & advising in advance of coursework. BP students then enroll in advanced undergraduate courses in Mechanics, E&M, Quantum Mechanics, and Statistical Mechanics, or the corresponding graduate courses, depending on their preparation. After a 2nd summer of research, students enroll in a mix of graduate courses and research credit, qualifying for a thesis-based MS degree by the end of their 2nd year. Students receive full stipend and tuition support and do not teach until their 2nd year. Successful students are eligible for admission to the FSU PhD program, or may apply to any other physics PhD program. The FSU program combines other components aimed at enhancing the experience and maximizing success. A Physics Graduate Student Association (PGSA) assigns peer mentors and organizes regular activities. Faculty meet weekly with BP Fellows, either one-on-one or together with PGSA leaders and mentors. A formal orientation program for all incoming graduate students is under development.

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