



Thank you for your commitment to being an undergraduate mentee this semester! For physical science students, this document contains some potential prompts to discuss with your mentors. Please feel free to use any of these ideas or develop your own in order to gain a better understanding of what being a physical science student entails and the field as a whole.

POTENTIAL DISCUSSION TOPICS (PHYSICAL SCIENCE MENTEE → MENTOR)

Take this time to discuss any questions you may have regarding the physical science graduate school application or education process. *Note: [insert field] → ask more specifically about the subject that you are interested in pursuing within the broad category of “physical sciences”!*

- “Why did you choose to go to graduate school?”
 - “What does a graduate education in engineering provide beyond an undergraduate education in the field?”
- “Is it a good idea to take time off before graduate school in [insert field]?”
 - “Why did/didn’t you take time off before graduate school?”
 - “If I take time off, what types of jobs/activities should I pursue during this time?”
- “What does the graduate school application process look like for [insert field]?
Requirements? Interviews?”
- “Could you discuss the importance of research for physical science students?”
 - “What research experience did you have during your undergraduate years?”
- “What are some qualities of a good graduate school applicant in the physical sciences?”
 - “How can I set myself apart from other applicants?”
- “Should my classes/extracurriculars be mostly concentrated in a certain subject area/STEM or more well-rounded?”
 - “Are there certain classes, majors, or skill sets that graduate schools like to see?”

- “What career paths does a graduate degree in [insert field] open up compared to those available to someone with an undergraduate degree?”
 - “What is your intended career path?”
 - “What do other graduate students in the physical sciences do after graduate school?”
- “How many graduate schools did you apply to/how did you choose which to apply to?”
- “What does your day-to-day life as a graduate student look like?”
- “What are your favorite and least favorite parts of being a graduate student?”