



Thank you for your commitment to being a graduate student mentor this semester! For students in the physical sciences, this document contains some potential prompts to discuss with your mentees. Please feel free to use any of these ideas or develop your own in order to help them gain a better understanding of what going into graduate school in a physical science field of study entails.

POTENTIAL DISCUSSION TOPICS (PHYSICAL SCIENCE MENTOR → MENTEE)

Take this time to discuss any advice and insight you may have regarding the physical science graduate school application and education process.

- “What led you to consider graduate school in [insert field]?”
- “What other career plans are you considering, if any?”
- “Are there specific graduate programs you are interested in?”
- Discuss your overall journey – what led you to graduate school, your specific program, what you think are important qualities of undergraduate and graduate students in the field
 - Go beyond just academic qualities – also discuss personal characteristics and skills to develop
- “What concerns do you have about being an undergraduate student in this field? What have been the hardest parts so far?”
 - “What concerns do you have about potentially being a graduate student in this field? About your career path in the field?”
- “Something I wish I knew before/while applying to graduate school is...”