YOU ARE INCREDIBLY LUCKY
You are receiving a graduate education and it doesn’t cost you anything!!

- Out-of-State tuition: $15K/semester or $45K/year
- Cost of health insurance: Check healthcare.gov (Obama care)

You are being paid to earn a graduate degree and are destined to end up with a highly paid job.

Indeed, you are so lucky!!
FINANCIAL SUPPORT

• Full time GTA support is usually guaranteed for two years. A full time GTA appointment corresponds to 20 hrs a week. The remainder of your time should be spent on courses and exam preparations. Extensive involvement in research is strongly discouraged.

• After passing the qualifying exam, start looking for a research supervisor. Half-time GTA/GRA arrangements are quite common for a limited period of time.

• Students are expected to secure a full time GRA position after their third year. Continued GTA support beyond the third year is decided on a case-by-case basis.

• GTA positions come with tuition waivers. Once you are full time GRA, your research advisor will pay your tuition.

• GRA’s are paid from highly competitive research grants.
FINDING A RESEARCH ADVISOR

- Start familiarizing yourself with research in the department ASAP

- GET TO KNOW THE FACULTY AT UTK and UTSI

- Once given a chance by a potential research advisor, don’t blow it

- You may change research advisor no more than two times (my policy)

- If things don’t work out between you and your third advisor, get a masters degree

- If you want to work with an ORNL staff scientist, please see me (or Dr. Breinig) first. There are some important things you need to know. A UT-Physics faculty member should be actively involved.
YOUR CAREER AS A RESEARCH SCIENTIST STARTS HERE:

- Physics research is not your typical nine-to-five job

- Only people that are ‘driven’ succeed. A PhD is not enough

- It is a very competitive world. It is “publish or perish”

- Research grants typically have a three year cycle. Slow progress jeopardizes grant renewals

- If your advisor loses the grant, your GRA stipend is in jeopardy

- Be a team player. You have a MAJOR responsibility towards the success of grant project.

- Responsibility entails: Hard work, being creative, being mature, taking initiative.

WORK HARD