The graduate program at Kansas State University is composed of 30 faculty, 23 postdocs and faculty visitors and 73 graduate students. About 85% of our students are on a Ph.D. track. Major research areas are high energy physics and cosmology; atomic, molecular and optical physics (AMO); physics education; and condensed matter physics.

Recruiting and retaining high quality graduate students has been a priority for us and has proved difficult. Strategies have involved identifying leading universities around the world where graduate students may be recruited and awarding strong students a scholarship in addition to their monthly stipend.

Our department is hiring in the areas of atomic physics and condensed matter physics. Our hope is that these latter hires will allow us to move more firmly into the area of soft condensed matter physics.

In recent years our condensed matter work has evolved more towards the soft condensed matter and the AMO over the last tens years has moved firmly into the area of laser-atom interactions. Thus our graduate curriculum has changed significantly over the last few years and will probably continue to change as we consider the needs of our students.