Ongoing Reforms of the Graduate Physics Program at Oregon State University: Curriculum and Professional Development. Janet Tate, William W. Warren, Jr, Yun-Shik Lee, Ethan D. Minot, Oksana Ostroverkhova, Viktor A. Podolskiy, Department of Physics, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331.

Oregon State University Physics has recently formally addressed the organization of its graduate program. We are striving for a more flexible curriculum, earlier entry into research, and increased focus on the professional development of students. We have limited the number of required courses to 15 to be completed in 6 quarters, which allows a serious commitment to research in year two. We are introducing modularized 5-week specialty courses that will allow the students to select from a rotating menu of courses. This should allow students more flexibility, more depth if they choose, and better preparation for research. We will also revise our core courses moderately to coordinate better with the more advanced specialty courses. This approach has worked well in our successful undergraduate Paradigms & Capstones in Physics curriculum. In addition to the usual departmental colloquium and discipline-based seminars, students now all take the previously informal seminars on Teaching, Research, and Professional Communications. We incorporate professional mentoring into each of these seminars. Our constraints are a relatively small department and a large service component that requires significant TA development.