

Welcome to EPIC 2026

Exploring Particle Physics Integrated with Computing

Hosted by Dr. Gavin S. Davies & Dr. Jake V. Bennett, University of Mississippi

- Supported by the Mississippi EPSCoR Scientific Hub (MESH) and the U.S. Department of Energy

July 13 to 17, 2026



EPIC

olemiss-physics.github.io/epic-summer-2026

Why you're here

- No prior coding experience required. No physics background assumed.
- By Friday: you'll have written Python code, worked on a real **Belle II** project with a team, made plots, and shared your results.
- This week is about **curiosity**, not credentials.
- **MESH** (Mississippi EPSCoR Scientific Hub) is the DOE-funded partnership behind this: UM, USM, and JSU, and beyond
- **EPIC** is this week's summer school, one part of what MESH supports

Your week at a glance

Day	Focus
Mon	Welcome, particle physics, and tools (Unix, git, GitHub, Python, Jupyter)
Tue	Belle II, hadronic physics, team project launch
Wed	Neutrino physics and oscillation tutorial
Thu	Science communication and poster prep
Fri	QuarkNet Higgs masterclass, poster presentations, and closing panel

Full daily timetable:

- [epic Indico Timetable](#) (most accurate)
- [epic-summer-2026 website](#) → [Schedule](#)

Logistics

- **Hours:** 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Monday–Friday
- **Location:** Duff Center (CSTI), rooms **135/137**, ground floor
- **Arrival:** please be in the room by **8:50 AM**
- **Lunch:** 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM daily, on campus or nearby (options on the website)
- **Laptops:** not required. Chromebooks can be provided; bring your own if you prefer
- **Teams:** 5 teams, 13 participants, each working a Belle II project

Logistics: staying connected

- Everything here is also on the [program website](#) (schedule, setup guide, FAQ)
- Questions any time: **there are no silly questions in science**
- If something isn't working (technical, schedule, personal), **tell a staff member immediately**, not just a teammate

Code of conduct

Adapted from the University of Mississippi Code of Ethics and Conduct and the Ole Miss Creed

- **Fairness, honesty, and respect** for the rights of others: that's the standard, in the room and out of it
- **No harassment or discrimination** of any kind. **Zero tolerance**
- We're a team: **be inclusive**, help each other, no put-downs on ideas or questions
- Even the *appearance* of misconduct reflects on the whole program, so act accordingly
- **Concerns?** Talk to Gavin, Jake, or any staff member, or contact the EORC directly:

Office of Equal Opportunity & Regulatory Compliance (EORC) South Oxford Center,
Suite 1100 • 662-915-7735 • eorc@olemiss.edu

Using AI tools this week

- Totally fine to use AI (ChatGPT, Copilot, etc.) to **debug code** or **explain a concept**: treat it like a very fast rubber duck
- **Not fine**: having it write your analysis, your poster, or your conclusions for you. That stops being your project
- You should always be able to **explain what your own code and plots do**. We'll ask you to walk us through them
- Be careful what you paste in. Don't upload experiment data or anything you're unsure about sharing externally

Compensation

- **Subsistence support:** lump-sum **\$1,200** for the week (covers housing, meals, laundry, parking), no receipts required
- **Travel stipend:** up to **\$500**, mileage reimbursed at **\$0.70/mile** for personal car (up to 600 mi round trip); receipts required for other travel expenses (e.g. rental, airfare, bus, train)
- **UM students:** paid via Workday, **W-2** wages, standard tax withholding
- **USM / JSU (non-UM) students:** paid via **E-Form 13**, reported on a **1099**, no withholding. You handle this at tax time
- Payment is made **at the conclusion of the program**. Tell us now if that timing causes hardship

Above all, have fun.

That's the real assignment this week.

Questions?

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