CHOSE TO BE A PHYSICS MAJOR

WHY STUDY PHYSICS?

• Intellectual Satisfaction. First, and foremost, physics satisfies our deep desire to understand how the universe works. Physics is interesting.

• Intellectual Challenge. By striving for fundamental understanding, the physicist accepts the challenge to move past a merely descriptive approach of our world and probes deeply into how and why it works.

• Physics Produces New Technology. Today's esoteric physics research will become tomorrow's technological advances.

• Technical Expertise. Physicists exploit forefront technologies in their pursuits.

• Flexibility. In a fast-paced and changing world, it is much more important to have a broad substantive education than to be trained in a specific skill. We teach people how to think, and how to apply and extend what they know to new types of problems.

• Physics is Analytical and Quantitative. People who can reason analytically and quantitatively are essential for the success of almost any pursuit.

YOUR FUTURE IS SO BRIGHT . . .

A degree in physics helps prepare students for employment in industry, research, government, and academia. A bachelor's degree from the undergraduate physics program will provide an overall view of both classical and modern physics along with problem-solving ability and the flexibility to continue learning.

Your education can:

• Prepare you for employment in industrial or governmental laboratories.

• Prepare you for graduate studies for master’s or doctoral degrees in experimental or theoretical physics.

• Provide a broad background for further work in other sciences, such as materials sciences, aerospace, astronomy, computer science, geophysics, meteorology, radiology, medicine, biophysics, engineering, and environmental studies.

• Provide a science-oriented liberal education. This training can be useful in some areas of business administration, law, or other fields where a basic knowledge of science is useful.

• Provide part of the preparation you need to teach physics. To teach physics in high school, you will also take education courses to become certified. You will need a doctoral degree to become a college or university professor.

PHYSICS MENTOR PROGRAM

Any student contemplating becoming a physics major is encouraged to obtain a faculty mentor. A mentor is a faculty member with whom students can discuss physics, courses, careers, graduate schools, aspirations, etc. Mentors are not primarily academic advisors. Information is available at the department office.

OTHER PROGRAMS

AMEP

A program in applied mathematics, engineering and physics (AMEP) (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/mathematics/applied-mathematics-engineering-physics-bs-amep) is described in its own section of the Guide.

Astronomy–Physics

Students interested in an astronomy–physics major should contact the astronomy department (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/astronomy).

Education–Physics

A student working toward the Bachelor of Science–Education degree may major or minor in physics. Interested students should contact the School of Education (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education). Upon request, the physics department will assign an advisor.

Medical Physics

A suggested curriculum for students interested in graduate study in medical physics is available in the medical physics (https://www.medphysics.wisc.edu) department office.

DEGREES/MAJORS/CERTIFICATES

• Physics, B.A. (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/physics/physics-ba)

• Physics, B.S. (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/physics/physics-bs)

• Physics, Certificate (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/physics/physics-certificate)

PEOPLE

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