Why Physics?

Physics majors earn on average the second-highest scores on the MCAT and LSAT compared to all undergraduate majors!

Common Job Titles of Physics Majors

- Electrical Engineer
- *Business Analyst*
- Programmer
- High School Science Teacher
- Software Developer
- Product Engineer
- Researcher
- Data Analyst
- Project Manager
- IT Consultant
- Mechanical Engineer
- Assistant Scientist
- Systems Engineer

Interested in a Physics major?

CONTACT A MAJOR ADVISOR

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A GUIDE FOR STUDENTS INTERESTED IN MAJORING IN PHYSICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

within one year of graduating, according to an AIP survey of 4,886 grads from US universities in 2013 & 2014

PHYSICS MAJORS EARN JOBS

54% graduate school
41% employed
5% other
WHY PHYSICS?

Roughly speaking, physics is to the inanimate world what philosophy is to the patterns of human thought. We observe, describe, predict, synthesize, and abstract. At one time, in fact, Physics was natural philosophy.

But in the modern era, the two have parted ways. Science has adopted its own approach to the truth, asserting that measurement is the precise form of questioning and that precise questioning is the beginning of understanding.

Physic is the science of the properties of matter, radiation, and energy in all forms. As such, it is the most fundamental of the sciences. It provides the underlying framework for the other physics sciences and engineering, and for understanding physics processes in biological and environmental sciences.

5 REASONS TO MAJOR IN PHYSICS

1. Intellectual Satisfaction
   Physics satisfies our deep desire to understand how the universe works

2. Intellectual Challenge
   Physicists move past a descriptive approach of how the world works into how and why

3. New Technologies + Expertise
   Physics Today’s physics are tomorrow’s tech advances, and physicists are at the forefront

4. Flexibility
   Physicists learn to think and apply knowledge to quickly adapt to solve problems

5. Physics is Analytical and Quantitative
   Analytical reasoning and quantitative analysis are essential for the success of most pursuits

PHYSICS MAJORS CONNECT

Great science stems from strong collaboration, and Physics majors know this as well as any students on campus! Our majors take advantage of the many professional development, social, and outreach opportunities available within the department.

Study, network, and explore with other Physics undergads

Physics Club

Hone your teaching skills by tutoring students in Intro Physics

Physics Learning Center

Career development, mentorship and advocacy for Gender Minorities and Women in Physics

GMaWiP

Share the excitement of Physics with a wider audience

Physics Outreach

PHYSICS MAJORS DO RESEARCH

Direct experience with ongoing research is one of the most important parts of a Physics major’s education. It is a good way to find out what working in Physics is actually like, and it is an entirely different experience from coursework.

From atomic to astronomical, from theory to experiment, there are many opportunities for undergraduates to conduct research! We offer both paid and for-credit research opportunities.

“Working with the amazing graduate students and scientists in my lab was a true inspiration, and helped me to decide what I wanted to do in graduate school and beyond.”

Megan Tabbutt ‘18

PHYSICS IS A GREAT DOUBLE MAJOR

UW–Madison Physics majors have graduated with double majors in:

- Astronomy
- AMEP
- Engineering
- Mathematics
- Computer Sciences
- Gender and Women's Studies
- Art
- Education