Degree Options
Bachelor of Science in Physics and Astronomy

Specialization Tracks Available:
Astrophysics
Planetary Sciences
Standard Physics
Applied Physics

Minors
Astronomy
Physics

Program Strengths
• The highly rigorous undergraduate program prepares graduates to be competitive in top graduate programs or for employment.
• 63% of faculty are Society Fellows; the national average is 10%
• Faculty bring in over $9 million/year in grant funds.
• The department hosts a weekly colloquium, where WSU faculty and visiting scholars discuss their research/work.
• The James Richard Jewett Observatory houses the largest refracting telescope in the state of Washington. Several times a year, star parties are held for the public to attend.
• Each year, usually during Parent’s Weekend, the Physics and Astronomy Club hosts the annual Pumpkin Drop, a gravity experiment using pumpkins and the 12-story Webster Hall.

Student Club
Physics and Astronomy Club

Admission to the Major Requirements
Students may be admitted as Physics & Astronomy majors upon declaring their intent to the department.

Suggested Classes for First year
Chem 105: Principles of Chemistry I
Chem 106 or 116: Principles of Chemistry II
CptS 111: Introduction to Algorithmic Problem Solving
OR CptS 121: Program Design and Development
Engl 101: Introductory Writing
Hist 105: The Roots of Contemporary Issues
Math 171: Calculus I
Math 172: Calculus II
Physics 188: First-year Seminar
Physics 201/205: Physics for Scientists and Engineers
UCORE requirements

Suggested Classes for Transfer Students
CptS 111: Introduction to Algorithmic Problem Solving
OR CptS 121: Program Design and Development
Engl 402: Technical and Professional Writing
Physics 188: First-Year Seminar
Physics 303: Modern Physics I
Physics 320: Mechanics
Physics 341: Electricity and Magnetism
Math Requirement
- Math 171: Calculus I
- Math 172: Calculus II
- Math 220: Introductory Linear Algebra
- Math 273: Calculus III
- Math 315: Differential Equations
- Plus six credits of Math 300 or higher

Core Courses
- Physics 201/205: Physics for Scientists and Engineers I
- Physics 202/206: Physics for Scientists and Engineers II
- Physics 303: Modern Physics I
- Physics 304: Modern Physics II
- Physics 320: Mechanics
- Physics 330: Thermal Physics
- Physics 341: Electricity and Magnetism I
- Physics 342: Electricity and Magnetism II
- Physics 410: Electronics
- Physics 415: Quantum Physics Laboratory
- Physics 450: Introduction to Quantum Physics
- Physics 489: Thesis Proposal
- Physics 490: Undergraduate Thesis

Career Options
- Alternative energy sciences, energy exploration
- Medical profession, imaging, diagnosis
- Sports technologies, biophysics/engineering
- Architecture, civil engineering, materials science
- Education, forensics/law enforcement
- Computer technologies and applications
- Special effects, sound engineering, design
- Science journalism, technical writing
- Astronomy, aero-space technology
- Capital investment, insurance, computational economics

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Notes: