Physics and Astronomy
College of Arts and Sciences

Degree Options
Bachelor of Science in Physics and Astronomy
Specialization Tracks Available:
  - Astrophysics
  - 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 Dad’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 490: Undergraduate Thesis
- Physics 499: Special Problems
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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