



Physics and Astronomy

College of Arts and Sciences

Degree Options

Bachelor of Science in Physics and Astronomy

Specialization Tracks Available:

- Astrophysics
- Standard 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

Certification Requirements

Phys 201 or 205: Physics for Scientists and Engineers
Math 171: Calculus I

Suggested Classes for First year

Chem 105: Principles of Chemistry I
Chem 106 or 116: Principles of Chemistry
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

For more information:

physics.wsu.edu
physics@wsu.edu
509-335-1698

Advisors

Michael Allen
mlfa@wsu.edu
Webster 1246
509-335-1279

Nick Cerruti
ncerruti@wsu.edu
Webster 1250
509-335-7380

Frederick Gittes
gittes@wsu.edu
Webster 1252
509-335-7380

Brendan Brunner
brendan.brunner@wsu.edu
Webster 1245
509-335-1698

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