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