

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Physics is the study of the fundamental principles that govern the world and universe around us. UW-Whitewater Physics faculty prepare students for a variety of careers in a friendly environment featuring small class sizes. The program has several tracks:

- ❖ **Graduate School** — preparing you for graduate training in physics
- ❖ **Industry** — preparing you for a career in industrial research and development
- ❖ **Engineering** — preparing you for engineering school
- ❖ **Teaching** — preparing you to teach physics or physical science at the K-12 levels.

The department website includes detailed information on the course of study for each of these tracks, including sample four year plans. A student can also earn two degrees in five years: a B.S. in physics at UW-Whitewater and a B.S. in engineering at UW-Milwaukee.

PLACEMENT

Starting salaries for physics graduates are good; according to a recent survey by the American Institute of Physics, the average salary of 2000 physics bachelor's degree recipients was \$42,500. Recent UW-Whitewater physics graduates' employers range from large corporations to smaller high-technology companies, including:

- Bell Industries
- Fedco Electronics
- Johnson Controls
- Wisconsin Energy
- Motorola
- Lockheed-Martin Aerospace
- Boeing Aerospace

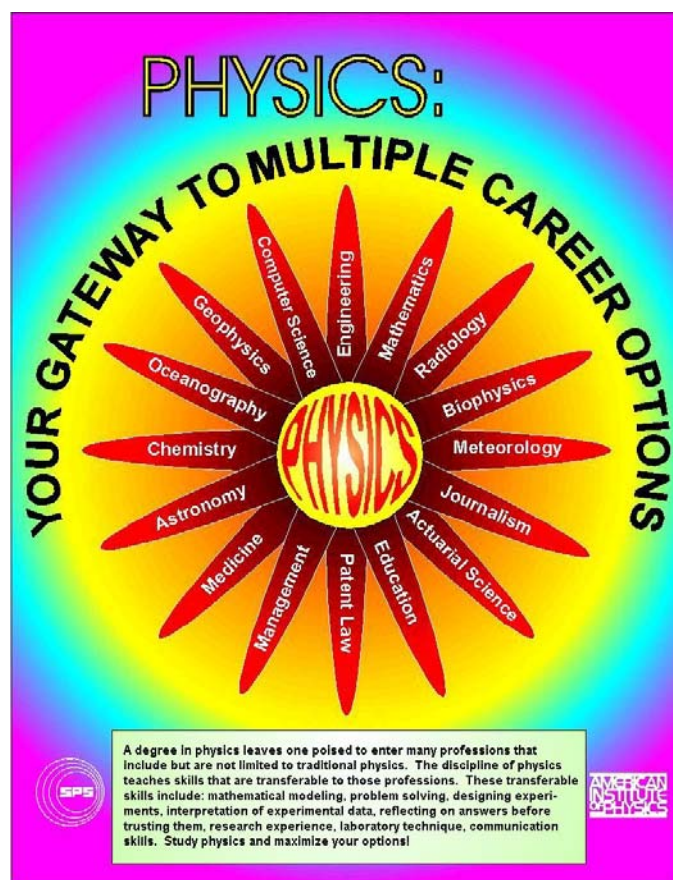
Many recent graduates are also employed as teachers, and an increasing demand for physics teachers is predicted.

ACCREDITATION

The College of Letters and Sciences is fully accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

UW-Whitewater physics graduates have achieved success in many fields. Physics graduates work in industry (both technical and management positions), teaching, and military service. UW-Whitewater graduates are also pursuing graduate study in physics, astronomy, engineering, computer science, and medicine. Other graduates are conducting scientific research in diverse fields such as laboratory research for the U.S. Armed Forces, aerostructural test engineering at NASA, nuclear structure research at Caltech, the Human Genome Project at UW-Madison, and X-ray astrophysics at the Harvard-Smithsonian Observatory.



PHYSICS:
YOUR GATEWAY TO MULTIPLE CAREER OPTIONS

Computer Science, Engineering, Mathematics, Radiology, Biophysics, Meteorology, Journalism, Actuarial Science, Education, Patent Law, Management, Medicine, Astronomy, Chemistry, Oceanography, Geophysics

A degree in physics leaves one poised to enter many professions that include but are not limited to traditional physics. The discipline of physics teaches skills that are transferable to those professions. These transferable skills include: mathematical modeling, problem solving, designing experiments, interpretation of experimental data, reflecting on answers before trusting them, research experience, laboratory technique, communication skills. Study physics and maximize your options!

SPS AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS

P HYSICS *facts*

HIGH SCHOOL PREPARATION

Students interested in physics should take as many high school physics and advanced math courses as possible. Good math preparation is essential for success in the field, and experience with computers is a plus. Motivation and curiosity are two of the most important attributes of successful physics students.

FACILITIES

In addition to excellent computer resources and three introductory physics labs, the department's Upham Hall facilities include separate laboratories for optics, electronics and atomic/nuclear physics. X-ray diffraction and electron microscopy labs are also available. Metal and wood shop facilities are available for construction of apparatus. The department's observatory features a research-grade, 41 cm aperture reflecting telescope and a light-shielded platform for small telescope use.

FACULTY

The physics faculty at UW-Whitewater are active scholars and dedicated teachers who are committed to training students, engaging in research, communicating science to the public, and serving the university and surrounding communities.

STUDENT RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

There are ample opportunities to be involved in scientific research under the supervision of a physics faculty member. Research topics include astrophysics, astronomical instrumentation, atomic and molecular spectroscopy, and pedagogical research. There are summer research programs such as those at Argonne, Fermilab, and the National Solar Observatory available to the interested student. Finally, the faculty encourage motivated students to be involved in independent research projects.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The local chapter of the Society of Physics Students maintains an office adjacent to the Physics Department office and sponsors many activities. Some of its recent endeavors include providing free tutoring in physics for the undergraduate students on campus, assisting elementary school students in making holograms during visits to area schools, sponsoring physics lectures and providing an annual observance of "National Physics Day" on campus. The UW-Whitewater chapter of the Society of Physics Students has been designated as an "Outstanding Chapter" in ten of the last eleven years by the American Institute of Physics. UW-Whitewater also has a local chapter of the national physics honor society, Sigma Pi Sigma.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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