What you can do with your PHYSICS MAJOR

Physics Major Skills

- **Problem Solving**
  You learn to solve quantitative and qualitative problems proficiently and find relationships between physical factors.

- **Critical Thinking**
  You learn how to define and analyze problems, identify factors that contribute to outcomes, and analyze connections.

- **Experimental Design & Measurement**
  You are able to design experiments or studies to answer specific questions, properly use standard and specialized instrumentation to make measurements, and quantitatively estimate the reliability of results.

- **Computational & Data Analysis**
  You learn to collect and organize quantitative and qualitative astronomical data; plan astronomical observations using scientific computing methods; test hypotheses; and properly conduct and interpret statistical analysis.

- **Data Modeling**
  You build and interpret mathematical models of astronomical data using scientific computing methods.

- **Written & Oral Communication**
  You communicate concepts and results effectively with scientific peers, both orally and in writing.

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Supplement Your Skills With

- **Gain Experience:** Research, Internships, Part-Time Work & Data Competitions
- **Ethical Conduct in** Data Analysis & Privacy
- **Career & Self** Development
- **Oral & Written Communication With the Public**
- **Experience Fostering Professional Equity & Inclusion**

Chart Your Path Forward

- **Activate Your Handshake Account** for connections to jobs, internships, employer & alumni networking.
- **Explore Career Communities** to discover a wide variety of fields where you can turn your major into success.
- **Get Career & Internship Advising** from SuccessWorks to make a plan, whether you’re a first-year student or about to graduate.

Get Started: successworks.wisc.edu
“The breadth of topics within the physics major have been instrumental in providing me with the tools for career success. Completing an internship and working one-on-one with professors and researchers really gave me an idea of what the profession entailed and required.”

Samantha Lundt, 2008
Manufacturing Process Engineer, Quantum Devices, Inc.
Barneveld, WI

“Physicists often end up in fields that we didn’t anticipate – some of us in fields that didn’t exist when we were in college! The skill I have used more than any other is the ability to understand when and how a problem can be simplified. People often gravitate towards complex solutions when simple ones are often more practical, and sometimes more accurate.”

Kimberlee Chestnut Chang, 1992
Member of Technical Staff – Human-AI Teaming Lead
MIT Lincoln Laboratory
Lexington, MA

Put your Physics major to WORK

Common Alumni Job Titles
( Some jobs require additional education beyond the undergraduate level)

- Attorney
- Business Owner
- Chief Executive Officer
- Chief Technology Officer
- Data Scientist
- Engineer/Optical Engineer
- Physicist
- President
- Process Engineer
- Product Manager
- Professor
- Scientist
- Research Associate/Assistant
- Research & Development Engineer
- Software/Systems Engineer

Common Employers of Alumni

- Amazon
- Booz Allen Hamilton
- Common Fusion Systems
- Epic
- Exact Sciences
- GE Healthcare
- Hewlett Packard Enterprises
- Honeywell
- Kimberly Clark
- Lockheed Martin
- Los Alamos National Laboratory
- Madison Area Technical College
- Massachusetts Insitute of Technology
- Mayo Clinic
- Microsoft
- Shine Technologies
- Stanford University
- University of Washington
- University of Wisconsin-Madison
- UW Health

Recent Grads’ Career Plans

- 55% Continuing Education or Grad School
- 41% Employment
- 2% Military Service
- 2% Other

Industries of Employment

1. Education
2. Information Technology
3. Research
4. Healthcare
5. Life Sciences
6. Defense & Space
7. Electronic Manufacturing
8. Finance
9. Military
10. Legal

Where Alumni Live & Work

- 34% Wisconsin
- 11% California
- 6% Minnesota
- 5% Illinois
- 4% Washington
- 40% Other

Career Communities for Physics Majors

SuccessWorks has eight Career Communities to connect you with career advising, resources, and programs. Here are a few suggestions on where Physics majors can start.

- Technology, Data & Analytics
- Scientific Research
- Government, Policy, International Affairs & Law
- Consulting, Finance & Business Roles

Not inspired by these options? Visit SuccessWorks to explore more widely.

successworks.wisc.edu