

**What can I do with a major in
“Physics & Astronomy”?**
The University of Georgia Career Center
Clark Howell Hall, 706-542-3375, www.career.uga.edu
UGA Physics & Astronomy, 706-542-2485, www.physast.uga.edu



This information describes typical occupations and employment settings associated with this major. Understand some of these options may require additional training. Moreover, you are not limited to these options when choosing a possible career path.

Description of Physics & Astronomy

A branch of the physical sciences, physics is the study of energy and the behavior of single atoms and their component pieces. Physicists consider themselves the most fundamental of scientists for they examine the basic laws of our universe and apply these laws to explain the behavior of increasingly more complex systems. The same underlying principle describe the behavior of atoms, lasers, living cells, and galaxies. Physicists seek to study and understand what happens when atoms and subatomic particles break down and assemble, how they react to collisions with each other and to electro-magnetic radiation, so it is at the base of all modern science and technology, and even at an elementary level this fundamental nature can be appreciated. Moving out into the heavens and the study of the celestial bodies has virtually exploded during the last 50 years. Humans are on the moon in space and visiting the outside planets. Astronomers using all of the basics of the physicist are at the forefront of these movements.

Research Careers

O*NET <http://online.onetcenter.org> (Click on Find Occupations)

Georgia Career Information Center <http://www.gcic.peachnet.edu> (Accessible only on campus computers)

Occupational Outlook Handbook <http://www.bls.gov/oco> (Type in general term for career of interest)

Alberta Occupational Profiles www.alis.gov.ab.ca/occinfo/frameset.asp (Click on Occupational Title Search)

*Please visit the Career Center Library or your Career Consultant for more information or assistance.

Possible Job Titles of Physics & Astronomy Graduates

(*Jobs secured as reported by UGA Career Center post-graduate survey)

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Aerospace Testing | Cardiac Imaging Researcher | Research Physicist |
| Health Physicist | Optical Devices Designer | Satellite Data Analyst |
| Astronomer | Chemical Physicist | Satellite Missions Analyst |
| Medical Physicist | Optical Physicist | Science Teacher |
| Astrophysicist | Engineer | Science Writer |
| Molecular Physicist | Particle Physicist | Seismologist |
| Atomic Physicist | Fluid Physicist | Solid State Physicist |
| Nuclear Physicist | Physics Researcher | Stratigrapher |
| Biophysicist | Geophysicist | Teacher/Professor |
| Nuclear Plant Manager | Plasma Physicist | Technical Consultant |

Possible Employers of Physics & Astronomy Graduates

(*Jobs secured as reported by UGA Career Center post-graduate survey)

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Ahlberg Engineering, Inc. | Information/Technology | Private Space Cruise Enterprises |
| Engineering Firms | NASA | Occupational Safety & Health Administration |
| Aircraft & Instrument Industries | Department of Agriculture | Patent Office |
| Environmental Protection Agency | National Bureau of Standards | Production facilities |
| Atom Smashing Facilities | Department of Defense | Research and Development |
| Dept. of Homeland Defense | National Institutes of Health | Scientific journals |
| Centers for Disease Control | Department of Energy | Technical consulting firms |
| Scientific Documentary Films | National Observatories | Testing labs |
| Defense Manufacturing Companies | Educational Institutions | Universities & Colleges |
| | National Science Foundation | TSYS |
| | Electrical Equipment Companies | |

Career Center Library Resources

Dictionary of Occupational Titles, 4th edition
Careers for Environ Types Who Respect the Earth
Careers for Plant Lovers and Other Green Thumb Types
VGM's Careers Encyclopedia 4th Edition
Careers for Sci Types and Others w/ Inquiring Minds
Encyclopedia of Careers and Vocational Guidance
The WetFeet Guide to Ind & Careers for Undergrads
Monster Careers: How to Land the Job of Your Life
Occupational Outlook Handbook
The Ultimate Guide to Getting the Career You Want
The Vault College Career Bible
Encyclopedia of Associations, Volume 1-Part 2
Atlanta Business Chronicle Book of Lists
Web Resources for People with Disabilities
Job Search Handbook for People with Disabilities
Job Hunting for People Who Have Disabilities
Careers in Focus: Education
Business Etiquette in Brief
Federal Law Enforcements Careers
On a Personal Note: A Guide to Writing Notes With Style

The Complete Guide for Getting Government Jobs
How to Get into the Right Dental School
How to Get Into the Right Nursing Program
Perfect Personal Statements
Graduate Programs in the Biological Sciences
Grad Progs in Phy Sci, Math, Ag Sci, Envir/Nat Res
Ultimate GRE Tool Kit
Peterson's MCAT Success
Exploring Health Care Careers
International Job Finder: Where the Jobs are Worldwide
Scoring a Great Internship
Interview for Success (7th Edition)
College Majors and Careers
Networking for Everyone
Rèsumé Magic
Real Resumes for Students
Peterson's Ultimate New Employee Survival Guide
Next Step: The Real World
Pathways to Career Success for Minorities

Campus Resources

Department of Physics and Astronomy - <http://www.physast.uga.edu>
Observatory Schedule <http://www.physast.uga.edu/observatory/schedule>
Ask the Physicist! - <http://www.askthephysicist.com/>
The Center for Simulational Physics - <http://www.csp.uga.edu/>

Employment Websites

The American Astronomical Society (AAS) - <http://jobregister.aas.org/>
National Optical Astronomy Observatory - http://www.noao.edu/cas/hr/jobs/jobs_list.html
International Astronomical Union - <http://www.iau.org/>
Physics and Astronomy Job Hunting Resources - <http://cosmology.berkeley.edu/jobs/jobover.html>
Physics & Astronomy Jobs - <http://www.phys-astro.sonoma.edu/jobs.shtml>
American Physical Society Careers/Employment Information - <http://www.aps.org/careers/index.cfm>
American Institute of Physics Job Opportunities - <http://www.aip.org/careersvc/>
PhysNet - <http://de.physnet.net/PhysNet/physjobs.html>
Physics Today - <http://www.physicstoday.org/>

Additional Resources

American Astronomical Society - <http://aas.org/>
American Institute of Physics (AIP) - <http://www.aip.org/>
Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy - <http://www.aura-astronomy.org/>
International Astronomical Union - <http://www.iau.org/>
Nat. Academy of Sci. Board on Physics and Astronomy - <http://sites.nationalacademies.org/BPA/index.htm>
American Physical Society (APS) - <http://www.aps.org/>
American Journal of Physics - <http://scitation.aip.org/ajp/>