What can I do with a major in Physics?

Overview

- Physics is the most fundamental of all the natural sciences, and its applications extend even to other areas of human endeavor. Physics is the study of the natural world based on quantitative observations and experiments.

- Physics attempts to discover simple rules by which observations of many different situations can be correlated within a common framework of fundamental ideas (physical laws). Physical laws and theories have profound influence on how we view our universe and ourselves. Ernest Rutherford said, "In science, there is only physics; all the rest is stamp collecting." Physics gets to the roots of all physical phenomena. If you can think physics, you can think anything!

Career Titles

- Acoustics Physicist
- Aerodynamics
- Aeronautical Engineer
- Aerospace Engineer
- Agriculture Scientist
- Aircraft Engineer
- Air Traffic Controller
- Aircraft Pilot
- Applied Physicist
- Architect
- Argonomist
- Astronomer
- Astrophysicist
- Athletic Performance Trainer
- Atmospheric and Space Scientist
- Atmospheric Physicist
- Atomic Physicist
- Attorney
- Automotive Engineer
- Aviation Inspector
- Ballistics Experts
- Biomedical Engineer
- Biophysics
- Calligraphy
- Cardiac Imaging Researcher
- Chemical Physicist
- Civil Engineer
- Climatologist
- Clinical Research Coordinator
- Computational Physicist
- Computer Programmer
- Computer Specialist
- Computer System Engineer
- Consultant
- Consultant-Management Information Systems
- Fire Prevention and Protection Engineer
- Fluids Physicist
- Forensic Scientist
- Genetic Engineer
- Geodesist
- Geographical Data Technician
- Geologist
- Geophysicist
- Health Physicist
- Hydrodynamic Physicist
- Hydrogeologist
- Hydrologist
- Imaging Technician
- Industrial Hygienist
- Information Scientist
- Instrumental Technician
- Laboratory Technician
- Laser Engineer
- Lawyer, Technology Specialty
- Librarian
- Machinist
- Marine Architect
- Materials Physicist
- Materials Scientist
- Mathematician
- Mechanical Engineer
- Medical Devices Designer
- Medical Illustrator
- Medical Lab Technician
- Medical Physicist
- Medical Products Designer
- Metallurgist
- Meteorological Technician
- Meteorologist
- Microbiologist
- Molecular Physicist
- Photo Optic Technician
- Photogrammetrist
- Photonics Engineer
- Physician
- Physics
- Physicist
- Physics Researcher
- Plasma Physicist
- Power Plant Operators
- Power Systems Engineer
- Process Engineer
- Product Safety Engineer
- Professor
- Quality Assurance Specialist
- Quality Control Manager
- Radiation Protection Specialist
- Radiographer
- Radiological Laboratory Director
- Research Assistant
- Rheologists
- Safety Manager
- Satellite Data Analyst
- Satellite Engineer
- Satellite Missions Analyst
- Science Teacher
- Science Technologist
- Science Writer
- Scientific Apparatus Salesperson
- Scientific Photographer
- Seismologist
- Semi-Conductor Process Engineer
- Software Analyst/Consultant
- Software Engineer
- Solar Energy Engineer
- Solid State Physicist
- Spectroscopist
| Crime and Intelligence Analyst | Nanotechnologist | Stratigrapher |
| Crime Laboratory Analyst | National Laboratory Research | Stress Analyst |
| Cryogenics Specialist | Nuclear Engineer | Systems Analyst |
| Crystallographers | Nuclear Magnetic Resonance | Teacher |
| Curator | Nuclear Physicist | Technical Consultant |
| Design Engineer | Nuclear Power Plant Manager | Technical Illustrator |
| Electronic Engineer | Nuclear Technician | Technical Salesperson |
| Electro-Optical Engineer | Occupational Safety Specialist | Technical Writer |
| Elementary Particle Physics | Oceanographer | Test Engineer |
| Engineer | Optical Physicist | Water Conservation Specialist |
| Environmental Analyst | Optometrist | Water Reclamation Specialist |
| Environmental Health Specialist | Particle Accelerator Operations Analyst | Writer |
| Environmental Scientist | Petroleum Engineers | Zoologist |
| Fiber Optic Engineer | Pharmacologist | |

### Employers

| Aerospace Industry | Federal Government | Oilfields |
| Aircraft & Instrument Manufacturers | Fiber Optic Engineer | Patent Law Firms |
| Airports | Food & Drug Administration | Patent Office |
| Astronaut Corps | Geological Industry | Petroleum Industry |
| Atomic/Nuclear Labs | Government Agencies | Pharmaceutical Companies |
| Automobile Manufacturers | Health Care Facilities | Planetariums |
| Centers for Disease Control & Prevention | Hospitals | Power Plants |
| Chemical Manufacturers | Information Technology Companies | Private Industries |
| Clinical Research | Laboratories | Production Facilities |
| Colleges and Universities | Launch Sites | Professional and Technical Journals |
| Commercial Industry | Manufacturing Companies | Publishing Companies |
| Computer Companies | Marine Industry | Quality Assurance |
| Consulting Firms | Medical Schools | Recycling Plants |
| Crime Laboratories | Microelectronics Companies | Research Centers |
| Department of Agriculture | Military | Science Museums |
| Department of Commerce | Mining and Petroleum Companies | Smithsonian Institution |
| Department of Defense | Museums | Space Industry |
| Department of Energy | National Aeronautics & Space Administration | Space Research (NASA) |
| Department of Health & Human Services | National Bureau of Standards | State and Local Governments |
| Department of the Air Force | National Institutes of Health | Steel/Metals Industry |
| Department of the Interior NASA | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration | Technical Consulting Firms |
| Department of Transportation | National Science Foundation | Testing Labs |
| Educational Institutions | National Transportation Safety Board | TV/Radio Stations |
| Electrical Equipment Companies | Naval Research Lab | Utilities Companies |
| Engineering Firms | Nonprofit Foundations | Waste Management Firms |
| | | |
Environmental Protection Agency
Observatories
Weather Bureaus
Federal Agencies
Occupational Safety & Health Administration

Skills
- Ability to apply data
- Develop and write research proposals
- Oral and written communication skills
- Aptitude for accurate details
- Develop research models
- Organize, analyze and interpret scientific data
- Computer skills/proficiency
- Draw meaningful conclusions
- Perform calculations
- Cooperative learning
- Establish experimental designs
- Prepare technical reports
- Create hypotheses
- Evaluate ideas
- Problem-solving
- Critical thinking
- Gather/analyze data
- Review scientific literature
- Critiquing and anticipating problems
- Identify/classify materials
- See relationships among factors
- Decision-making and diagnosing
- Investigative skills
- Summarize research findings
- Define research problems
- Maintain accurate records
- Use instruments
- Design equipment
- Mathematical modeling

Salary
NACE (National Association of Colleges and Employers) Summer 2012 Salary Survey Average Offers:
- Physics Bachelor's Degree: $32,900

The job titles and employers listed below are a sample of the results from the annual St. Norbert College Career Services graduate follow-up survey for the Classes of 2003-2010

Graduate Information: Job Titles
- Teacher

Graduate Information: Employers
- Green Bay West High School