

PHYSICS, B.S. (SCIENCE)

Seven Penn State campuses are scheduled for closure after Spring 2027: DuBois, Fayette, New Kensington, Mont Alto, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, and York. New students are not being admitted at these campuses.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: University Park

Program Description

This major provides a sound program of technical and general education for students planning a career in physics and related fields.

- The General option provides broad coverage with the most physics and mathematics course requirements and is useful for students intending to pursue graduate study in Physics or similar disciplines.
- The Medical and Electronics options incorporate coursework in support of the application of physics and mathematics in various life-science or engineering related fields.
- A Computation option provides background in the application of physical principles and mathematical methods in the solution of scientific problems, simulations, or visualizations using computer and numerical techniques.
- The Nanotechnology/Material Science option provides students with background in the understanding of condensed matter physics at either the nano- or micro/macro- levels.

What is Physics?

Physicists study natural phenomena in the universe, from the smallest length scales to the largest in the cosmos, to discover the basic principles or laws which govern the physical world. Knowledge of physics is crucial to truly understanding the world around us, the world inside us, and the world beyond us. This degree will provide students with the fundamental conceptual, mathematical, computational, and experimental tools that are needed to attack the scientific and technological problems of today and in the future.

You Might Like This Program If...

- You are curious about how things work.
- You are fascinated by how the natural world is organized, how mathematics describes so much of it, how experiments can probe that understanding, and how one can predict new physical phenomena.
- You want to explore these connections via hands-on work in labs, mathematical reasoning and calculations, or using computers and programming.
- You want to solve sophisticated problems beyond standard pencil-and-paper examples using advanced mathematical and experimental technique or computational methods.