

PLANETARY SCIENCE AND ASTRONOMY, B.S.

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

Career Paths

Careers

Students in the Planetary Science & Astronomy major have flexibility in this program to customize the coursework to their anticipated career path. Many students choose careers in astronomy education or science communication, which may include work in the planetarium field or as K-12 classroom teachers. The coursework in the major also allows for students to prepare for careers at observatories or as data analysts for major astronomy projects. Students wishing to pursue careers in a technical industry are encouraged to complete a minor that will enhance the preparation in the major.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT POTENTIAL CAREER OPTIONS FOR GRADUATES OF THE PLANETARY SCIENCE AND ASTRONOMY PROGRAM (<https://science.psu.edu/astro/undergrad/planetary-science-and-astronomy-major>)

Opportunities for Graduate Studies

Students interested in formal or informal education often seek a Master's program that will provide them teaching certification or coursework specific to the museum / science center / planetarium field. While there are specific PhD programs in planetary science, students with this interest are encouraged to carefully plan their undergraduate coursework with an adviser so they are prepared to apply for these programs. The related Astronomy & Astrophysics (ASTRO) major may be a better option for students wishing to go into a Ph.D. program in Planetary Science.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE STUDIES (<https://science.psu.edu/astro/undergrad/planetary-science-and-astronomy-major>)

Professional Resources

- American Astronomical Society (<https://aas.org>)
- Astronomical Society of the Pacific (<https://astrosociety.org>)