

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

Program Description

Planetary Science and Astronomy majors will study the Earth system in the context of the Solar System and the universe as a whole. Students will apply methods and knowledge from mathematics, geosciences, chemistry, biology, astronomy and physics, and through laboratory experiences and coursework they will both learn to explore the Earth and to use telescopes to obtain astronomical data. They will study planetary systems around other stars and explore the possibility of their harboring life. Communication of these topics, both oral and written, to the public and to their peers will be emphasized, as will logic and general problem-solving skills. Upon graduation students will be prepared to enter a graduate program in education to obtain teaching certification, to work in an informal science venue or planetarium, or to enter a variety of industry, environmental, or defense professions.

What is Planetary Science and Astronomy?

Planetary Science and Astronomy is the study of the Earth system in the context of the Solar System and the universe as a whole. Students will apply methods and knowledge from mathematics, geosciences, chemistry, biology, astronomy and physics, and through laboratory experiences and coursework they will learn to both explore the Earth and to use telescopes to obtain astronomical data. Students interested in science education will likely seek a graduate program that will provide a teaching certificate.

You Might Like This Program If...

- Your interest in science combines Earth systems science and studying the Universe beyond the Earth.
- You want to go deeper into questions about black holes, life in the Universe, and the origin of the Universe.
- You have an interest in science communication or science education.