Program Overview

The Department of Physics offers an undergraduate program with the opportunity to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in physics. Physics classes for undergraduate majors are typically small, guaranteeing individual attention. These courses are taught by faculty members who bring their research interests into the classroom. The 30 Physics faculty are currently involved in the following research areas:

- Astronomy and Astrophysics
- Biophysics
- Condensed Matter Physics
- Elementary Particle Physics
- Material Science
- Optical Physics
- Physics Education Research
- Solid State Physics
- Theoretical and Computational Physics

The department offers three areas of emphasis:

**Physics**: designed for majors who plan to study physics in graduate school

**Applied Physics**: designed for majors who seek an applied focus in optics, electronics, and other project areas

**Teaching Physics**: designed for majors preparing to teach physical sciences in middle or high school

Pre-Engineering 3/2 Program

The Physics Department coordinates a 3/2 program in which students earn a bachelor’s degree in Physics from UO and an Engineering degree from Oregon State University.

Physics Department

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

UO DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS
120 Willamette Hall
1274 University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403-1274
(541) 346-4751

www.physics.uoregon.edu

Contact the Physics
UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE COORDINATOR at:
physundergradinfo@uoregon.edu

Preparation

Entering freshmen should have taken as much high school mathematics as possible in preparation for starting calculus in their freshman year. High school study of physics and chemistry is desirable.

The University of Oregon is an equal-opportunity, affirmative-action institution committed to cultural diversity and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. This publication will be made available in accessible formats upon request.

The University of Oregon
Physics is a branch of science which applies the laws of nature towards understanding the physical world in quantitative detail. Students who pursue the bachelor’s degree in physics will learn how these laws can systematically be applied to understand diverse phenomena and solve seemingly complex problems.

The analytical and problem solving skills acquired in physics will serve students well regardless of what career path they choose after graduation. In addition to major and minor programs, the Department of Physics offers a variety of courses for nonmajors and health science premajor students.

Careers
Fifty percent of graduates with bachelor’s degrees in physics find employment in the private sector working as applied physicists, software developers, managers, or technicians, typically alongside engineers and computer scientists. About 30 percent of students who earn an undergraduate degree continue their studies in a graduate degree program, leading to a career in teaching or research or both at a university, at a government laboratory, or in industry.

Students who have demonstrated their ability with a good record in an undergraduate physics program are generally considered very favorably for admission to medical and other professional schools.

Undergraduate Program in Physics

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