INTRODUCTION TO THE MAJOR

Physics is the study of the universe, from the very large (star formation, cosmic microwave background radiation) to the very small (nanotechnology, atomic cooling and trapping, string theory), and everything in between (biophysics, and the physics of solid state devices).

Students studying physics develop strong mathematical and analytical skills, good laboratory skills, effective written and oral communication skills, and a solid understanding of the fundamental laws that govern the universe.

“...The physics skillset fosters acumen in modeling and understanding diverse systems, reducing complexity into intuition....”

- Physics Major

THE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

Our undergraduate program begins with courses designed to help you build a strong foundation, regardless of your prior background in physics. Upper division work deepens your understanding of the basics while introducing more modern and advanced topics. The program culminates in our upper division lab course, where you have a unique opportunity among physics departments nationwide to choose from many different experiments, ranging from classic Nobel Prize winning work (e.g., Optical Pumping or the Mossbauer Effect), to areas of current research interest (nonlinear dynamics and laser manipulation of atoms, among others).

AMPLIFY YOUR MAJOR

- Join a Physics student organization to help build community and foster leadership.
- Transfer students: enroll in PHYSICS 153 to connect to resources at Cal.
- Pursue opportunities for research with faculty and peers.
- Write an honors thesis or execute an independent study project.
- Add a Teaching Concentration to your major and join CalTeach to prepare for a career in education.
### Design Your Journey

#### First Year
- Meet with your major and college advisor to discuss your academic plans.
- Review major and college requirements.
- Map out a 4-year plan on CalCentral.
- Visit physics.berkeley.edu/academics/tutoring to learn more about options for tutoring.

#### Second Year
- Complete lower division prerequisites and declare the major.
- Review major guidelines for study abroad.
- Enroll in a Sophomore Seminar, Big Ideas Course or Discovery Course.
- Assist faculty and graduate students in their research through URAP and SMART.
- Enjoy teaching? Explore a career in education while gaining teaching skills with CalTeach.

#### Third Year
- Focus on upper division requirements and electives.
- Review your degree progress with your major and college advisors.
- Ask the major advisor about the Physics honors program.
- Planning a senior thesis or project? Apply to the Haas Scholars Program or SURF.
- Pursue summer research.
- Add to your resume with a Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program.

#### Fourth Year
- Meet with your major advisor and with your college advisor to verify your completion of all major and college requirements.
- Register for the department and campus-wide commencement ceremonies.
- Hone your leadership skills with the Peter E. Haas Public Service Leaders program.
- Explore service opportunities after graduation, such as Peace Corps, Teach for America, or U.S. Department of State.

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### WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?

We believe a Physics degree represents strong training for a broad range of careers. Approximately half of our recent graduates have continued to graduate school in Physics and related fields; others have taken jobs in high tech industries or as management consultants, and still others have entered medical school or law school.

#### Jobs and Employers
- Data Scientist, SeatGeek
- Process Engineer, DiCon fiber optics
- Research Analyst, Lawrence Berkeley Lab
- Software Engineer, Fuzzy
- Software Engineer, LimeBike
- Software Quality Ops. Assoc.
- Waymo
- Technical Consultant, Bridgepoint Consulting

#### Graduate Programs
- AI & Robotics, Masters
- Astronomy, PhD
- Astrophysics, PhD
- Electrical Engineering, PhD
- Law, JD
- Operations Research, Masters
- Physics, PhD

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### Career Destinations Survey

Examples gathered from the Career Destinations Survey of recent Berkeley graduates.

### Jobs and Employers

Examples gathered from the Career Destinations Survey of recent Berkeley graduates.

### Graduate Programs

Examples gathered from the Career Destinations Survey of recent Berkeley graduates.