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 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.

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

- Physics Major

HOW TO USE THIS MAP

Use this map to help plan and guide your experience at UC Berkeley, including academic, co-curricular, and discovery opportunities. Everyone’s Berkeley experience is different and activities in this map are suggestions. Always consult with your advisors whenever possible for new opportunities and updates.

Visit vcue.berkeley.edu/majormaps for the latest version of this major map.
### 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.
- Visit the Career Center and Career Counseling Library.
- Check out the Career Center Yearly Planner.
- Sign up for Handshake and CareerMail.
- Explore career fields through the Career Connections Series or a winter externship.
- Attend Career Workshops offered by the Physics Department.

#### Second Year
- Complete lower division prerequisites and declare the major.
- Review major guidelines for study abroad.
- Explore new interests in a Freshman Seminar or student-run DeCal course.
- Visit the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarships.
- Learn about research opportunities for Physics majors.
- Get introduced to research via Undergraduate Laboratory at Berkeley.
- Contribute to a community organization with an American Cultures Engaged Scholarship course.
- Engage in STEM education and mentorship of local youth with Bridging Berkeley: Expand Your Horizons, or SENDforC.
- Consider a Berkeley Global Internship in the United States or abroad.

#### 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.
- Give back by becoming a Physics peer tutor or PHYSICS 153 transfer student mentor.
- Become a Golden Bear Orientation Leader and welcome students to the UC Berkeley campus and community.
- Join the UC Berkeley Physics group on LinkedIn.
- Tutor students at the Student Learning Center or through peer residential tutoring.
- Go on a service-learning trip with the Alternative Breaks Program.
- 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.

#### 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.
- Conduct informational interviews.
- Discuss graduate school options with advisors and professors.
- Update your resume and LinkedIn profile.
- Attend campus-wide career and graduate school fairs such as the STEM Career & Internship Fair, as well as workshops from the Physics Department.
- Ask professors and graduate student instructors for recommendation letters.
- Meet employers at Employer Info Sessions and On-Campus Recruiting.
- Apply to jobs, graduate school, and other opportunities.

### 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 fiberoptics
- Research Asst., 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

Examples gathered from the First Destination Survey of recent Berkeley graduates.

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