



## Physics and Astronomy

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The study of physics concerns the nature and properties of matter and energy.

While other branches of science are concerned with “how” matter and energy react and interact, physics studies “why” it behaves like it does, and tries to answer the fundamental questions regarding the relationship between matter and energy.

### Possible Immediate Job Titles with a Bachelor’s Degree

#### Accelerator Systems Operator

Accelerator systems operators are responsible for the correct operation of the particle accelerator in a physics laboratory, and must be able to understand the parameters of an experiment to be able to accurately prepare the machine with the proper settings. To become an accelerator systems operator, one must not only have a strong background in physics, but also a firm understanding of mathematics, as well as experience working in a physics laboratory.

#### Sustainable Living Scientist

While the field of sustainable living science is new and evolving, it has not changed in that it encompasses the impact of human actions on the environment and the necessary action needed to restore the damaged ecosystem. Sustainable living scientists help city planners to better design infrastructure such that natural resources are protected, and that the land that is used is used efficiently. To become a sustainable living scientist, one must have a firm background in physics, along with knowledge of ecological systems in nature.

### Possible Job Titles with an Advanced Degree

#### Natural Resources Manager – **Master’s or Doctorate Degree Required**

Natural resources managers teach companies about sustainable resources that they can utilize, as well as educating them on environmental policy. To become a natural resources manager, one must have a strong background in physics, or a related scientific field, as well as acquiring either a master’s or doctorate degree in natural resources management. They must not only have strong laboratory skills, but also have a strong business management skills, as the job combines knowledge of the science behind environmental policies with the act of putting them into practice.

#### Astronomer – **Doctorate Degree Required**

Astronomers attempt to learn more about the planets, moons, and stars by applying the principles of physics and mathematics. To become an astronomer, one must have a strong background in physics, particularly in a branch such as planetary science or cosmology, as well as a firm knowledge of mathematics.

*This is not an exhaustive list of occupations and it is highly recommended you conduct informational interviews and engage in experiential learning activities to help you broaden your interest areas within your major. Please contact the Career Design Center and speak to a Career Coach for further discussion; 512-471-6700 Painter Hall (PAI) 5.03.*



## Online Resources

[What can I do with this major?](#)

[Is a career in physics or astronomy best for you? Explore Focus2.](#)

## Job Posting Websites

### [Handshake](#)

*Handshake is Career Services' primary job posting site, and all students should have an account to not only apply for jobs and internships, but also to stay current on upcoming events, employer information sessions and other opportunities. Create an account!*

[Vault](#)

[Science Jobs Help](#)

[Post Doc Jobs](#)

[Going Global](#)

[Physics Jobs](#)

[Physics Today](#)

[Dice](#)

[Tech Web](#)

[PhysLink](#)

[Bright Recruits](#)

[Science Careers from the  
Journal of Science](#)

[Nature Jobs](#)

## Professional Associations

[American Astronomical Society\\*](#)

[Institute of Physics\\*](#)

[American Association of Physicists in Medicine\\*](#)

[American Institute of Physics\\*](#)

[Biophysical Society](#)

[Optics\\*](#)

\*Association Includes a Job Database

## Additional Resources

[Physics World](#)

[National Optical Astronomy Observatory](#)

[National Radio Astronomy Observatory](#)