CONNECTION WITH US

Cal Day
Come to UC Berkeley's annual Open House in April for information sessions, campus tours, special talks, and more.

Golden Bear Orientation
Join your peers in the campus-wide UC Berkeley orientation program for all new students.

Events
Attend department events with students, faculty, and staff. Visit physics.berkeley.edu for news and updates.

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).

PHYSICS

Bachelor of Arts

ADVISING

Advising is available in 368 or 374 Physics North for all students who would like academic counseling related to physics. We can help maximize your educational experience! Students interested in the Physics major should come in for pre-major advising as soon as possible. Visit physics.berkeley.edu/administration/student-services for more information.

CONNECT WITH US

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.

HOW TO USE THIS MAP

Visit ue.berkeley.edu/majormaps for the latest version of this major map.

THE PHYSICS SKILLSET fosters acumen in modeling and understanding diverse systems, reducing complexity into intuition.

– Physics Major

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
- Explore your major and advisor to discuss your academic plans.
- Complete lower division prerequisites and declare major.
- Engage in research with Physics faculty.
- Reflect on your passions and interests.
- Connect locally and globally.
- Meet with your major and college advisor to discuss your academic plans.
- Review major and college requirements.
- Complete lower division prerequisites and declare the major.
- Explore study abroad options now, so you can start planning your upcoming semesters.
- Attend Career Workshops offered by the Physics Department.

#### SECOND YEAR
- Connect and build community.
- Discover your passions.
- Engage locally and globally.
- Complete the MPS Scholars and PA Scholars registration forms for physics mentoring and community-building opportunities.
- Join a student organization such as Society of Physics Students or Society of Women in the Physical Sciences.
- Enroll in a Sophomore Seminar or Discovery Course.
- Contribute to a community organization with an American Cultures Engaged Scholarship.
- Consider a Berkeley Global Internship in the United States or abroad.
- Meet with a Center for Career Counseling officer to discuss your career options and goals.
- Meet with your major and college advisor to verify your completion of all major and college requirements.

#### THIRD YEAR
- Focus on upper division requirements and electives.
- Join a professional association such as the American Institute of Physics.
- Learn about research opportunities and graduate programs.
- Go on a service-learning trip with the Alternative Breaks Program.
- Conduct informational interviews.
- Ask professors and graduate student instructors for recommendation letters.

#### FOURTH YEAR
- Meet with your major and college advisor to verify your completion of all major and college requirements.
- Register for the department and campus-wide commencement ceremonies.
- Attend campus-wide career and graduate school fairs such as the STEM Career & Internship Fair, as well as workshops from the Physics Department.
- Attend Career Workshops offered by the Physics Department.
- Attend career fairs and workshops.
- Explore study abroad options now, so you can start planning your upcoming semesters.
- Focus on upper division requirements and electives.
- Meet with a Center for Career Counseling officer to discuss your career options and goals.
- Complete lower division prerequisites and declare the major.
- Complete your degree with a major and college advisor.
- Explore study abroad options now, so you can start planning your upcoming semesters.

### 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 Ass't., 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.