



PHYSICS



Using information from the University of Maryland graduation survey, we have compiled information about Physics majors, such as where they work or go to graduate school post-graduation. Check out the topics below to learn more about planning for your career! For more information, follow the link to the University Career Center at CMNS (UCC@CMNS): go.umd.edu/uccatcmns

Industries and Career Paths

Physics majors are employed by governmental, industrial and academic organizations. They put their science skills to use in fields such as communication, policy, K-12 education, research, analysis, analytics and more.

Organizations

The following list showcases employers of UMD Physics undergraduates:

- American Institute of Physics
- Bell Flight
- Boeing
- Brain Corp
- Capital One
- eGlobalTech
- Excelis
- Fannie Mae
- JETCO Research
- Maryland Blended Reality Center (MBRC)
- NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
- Northrop Grumman
- Planetary Data System
- Rebuilding Together
- Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC)
- National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)
- U.S. Department of Defense
- University of Maryland
- USPTO

Job Titles

The sample job titles below exemplify positions Physics majors are qualified for upon graduation. This is not an exhaustive list, but a starting point for exploration.

- Astrophysicist
- Computer Engineer
- Director of Communications
- Education Programs Intern
- Faculty Assistant/Researcher
- Information Systems Analyst
- Lecturer, Educator
- Operation Engineer
- Patent Examiner
- Physicist
- Quantitative Analyst
- Research Analyst
- Research Assistant
- Software Engineer/Programmer



Graduate Schools

Below is a list of some of the schools where physics graduates are pursuing upper-level degrees:

- Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Harvard University
- John Hopkins University
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Montana State University
- Stanford University
- University of California, Berkley
- University of Chicago
- University of Colorado, Boulder
- University of Illinois
- University of Michigan
- University of Texas, Austin
- University of Washington
- Washington University in Saint Louis
- Yale University

Skills Developed as a Physics Major

The University of Maryland prepares each student with many different skills to take into the workplace. These skills will come from academic coursework as well as experiential learning experiences students can choose to participate in while a student. For insight into what employers are looking for, review the skills inventory list (go.umd.edu/skillslist) to examine ways to include technical and cross-disciplinary skills on a resume, in interviews and on LinkedIn. The following link highlights “must have” career readiness competencies, according to employers: (go.umd.edu/fourcompetencies).

This major will prepare you with the technical and cross-disciplinary skills to:

1. define a research question and design an experiment to answer it in a meaningful and scientific way
2. gather and analyze data, to see relationships among different factors affecting the data, and to draw meaningful conclusions from these data
3. apply appropriate mathematical calculations and modeling to scientific problems
4. communicate via research proposals, journal papers, and present research talks and posters
5. collaborate efficiently and productively with other researchers through department-based and off-campus research experiences
6. master computers and other technology
7. solve new problems from first principles

Physics Major Resources

The following resources will help you explore relevant career paths, as well as job postings:

- The American Physics Society: aps.org/careers
- Society of Physics Students: spsnational.org
- Vault – Employer/Industry insights, rankings and reviews: vault.com
 - vault.com/industries-professions/professions/p/physicists
 - vault.com/industries-professions/professions/a/astrophysicists