Undergraduate Programs

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Admitted Students Preview 2020 – Information about Choosing UW and its Physics Major

The Department of Physics offers a program of study leading to the Bachelor of Science degree, as well as a minor. The program is one of the largest in the nation, with about 175 bachelors degrees awarded annually. As of Winter Quarter 2020, Physics is a “capacity constrained” major, with a goal of continuing to graduate 150-175 majors each year. Students who have completed the year-long introductory series in both Physics (PHYS 121-122-123) and Math (MATH 124-125-126) and are enrolled in a 200-level physics class may apply in Autumn or Spring quarter. There is an additional application cycle in Winter for transfer students. Details are available on the Undergraduate Major Admissions page.

Recent graduates have continued to further studies in physics and other fields (such as astronomy, medicine, teaching, law, business, biology, or engineering). Currently, about half of the graduates join the private sector in a variety of technical occupations where analytical, computational, and problem-solving skills are highly valued, while about a quarter go on to graduate work in physics, and the remaining quarter to advanced study in other fields.

We encourage our undergraduates to join research groups early on to fulfill the requirements of research/independent study credits and to establish contacts with graduate students and faculty.

Undergraduate Program Information

- Declaring a Physics Major
- Paths to Graduation