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# ASTRONOMY PHYSICS

## Astronomy-Physics Major

The Department of Astronomy at the University of Wisconsin-Madison features research in the areas of stars and stellar systems, plasma astrophysics, interstellar and intergalactic media, galactic astronomy, extragalactic astronomy and cosmology, high energy astrophysics, theory and computation, observational astronomy, instrumentation, and astrophysics within physics.



**WISCONSIN**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

### For more information:

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**Introductory course:** Astronomy 200: The Physical Universe (3 credits)

### Background for the Major:

**Math:** Math 221, 222, 234, and 319/340 or 320  
**Physics:** Physics 247, 248, and 249 (or 207/208/241 or 201/202/205)

**Completing the Major:** 28 credits in Physics  
6 advanced credits in Astronomy (numbered 300 or higher)

### Careers in Astro-Physics:

Most professional astronomers (about 55 percent) are either faculty members or affiliated with universities and colleges through observatories and laboratories. (Universities require a Ph.D. for a faculty positions). About a third of professional astronomers are employed by the federal government or by federally supported national observatories and laboratories. A Ph.D. in astronomy or physics is generally required. About ten percent of all astronomers work in private industry. A few industries, such as the aerospace field, hire astronomers to do research that may give their company a competitive edge. Although most astronomers have advanced degrees, people with an undergraduate major in astronomy or physics find jobs in support positions at national observatories, national laboratories, federal agencies, and in large astronomy departments at universities. An undergraduate astronomy degree is excellent preparation for a wide spectrum of professions including science teachers, technicians, computer programmers, and science journalists.