BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN Physics

PROGRAM OVERVIEW »

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE | MAJOR | MINOR

Physics is challenging but rewarding. A major in physics leads to careers in research and development, manufacturing and teaching. As a liberal arts degree, it is also excellent training for careers in medicine, business, finance and government. You will also find yourself well-prepared for a variety of graduate programs including physics, engineering and medical school.

Class sizes are small, and faculty members provide personalized help. We offer a supportive learning environment, and we are very successful at placing our students into highly competitive, nationally-funded internships and top-tier graduate programs in physics and engineering. Graduates entering the workforce immediately after graduation are also successful at launching careers.

PROGRAM BENEFITS AND FACILITIES »

You will have access to department facilities for extended hours, including the labs, the computer lab and the science reading room. Students are often involved in faculty research, an opportunity not generally afforded undergraduates at major universities. You will learn from hands-on experience in state-of-the-art research facilities. There are a multitude of opportunities for research on campus and off campus at such locations as Argonne National Lab, University of Central Florida, Auburn and Vanderbilt.

Our facilities feature teaching laboratories with computers at every lab station and the latest equipment. In 2002, Stetson University received a $2.5 million federal appropriation, administered by the Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education. This money supports the purchase of new equipment, instrumentation and lab furniture in the natural sciences at the university.

Labs are maintained and updated through an endowment established by the Kresge Foundation, which allows substantial purchases and updates to be made on an annual basis. The department also houses research laboratories in which cutting-edge research is being done by our faculty. Students are invited and encouraged to participate in this research. Such opportunities are rare for undergraduates and frequently are not available at other, especially larger, institutions. Finally, the department has a fully equipped machine shop with a full-time machinist. This allows the faculty to modify existing equipment or create custom-made equipment as needed for the labs or for specific research projects.

Physicists seek to understand phenomena ranging from the infinitesimal to the grand, from how two "up" quarks and one "down" quark are held together to form a proton to how the Big Bang led to the distribution of galaxies observed in the universe. *You might imagine a bewildering number of fundamental principles to explain the diversity in the phenomena displayed in the universe. The reality, however, is that it only takes a few. Our physics department tailors your course of study to fit your needs and goals.*

INTERNSHIPS »

We are very successful at placing our students into highly competitive, nationally-funded summer internships. Many of our students participate in programs funded by federal agencies such as the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy. These pay a stipend and travel expenses for summer research internships at a variety of universities and national laboratories around the country. Our students intern at Los Alamos National Laboratory, University of Florida, High Altitude Observatory in Boulder, Colo., Laser Interferometer Gravity-wave Observatory/LIGO at the California Institute of Technology, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution, NASA and others.

FACULTY »

The Department of Physics at Stetson University is composed of four PhD-level physicists whose specialties include solid state physics, thermophysics, acoustics, holography, atomic force microscopy, magnetic force microscopy and biological physics.

- George S. Glander, PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Holley Lynch, PhD, Vanderbilt University
- Kevin T. Riggs, PhD, University of Minnesota

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Studying physics at Stetson University can open the door to an exciting future in any number of fields. Employers value a degree in physics because graduates learn to think analytically, and to solve problems and express themselves effectively. Many of our majors go on to graduate school in fields ranging from physics and engineering to medical school teaching. They study at Auburn University, University of Florida, University of North Carolina, Vanderbilt University, Wake Forest University, Yale University and others. Others choose to go directly into research in either industry or in academics.

Graduates are employed as faculty in universities, medical schools and high schools; by companies such as IBM, Honeywell and Martin Marietta; and by government agencies such as NASA, the Department of Defense and Oak Ridge National Laboratories.

Preparation for Graduate Study

The physics department is very successful at placing students in top-tier graduate programs. Our graduates have gone on to advanced studies at a variety of prestigious schools, including Yale, Dartmouth, Cornell, Vanderbilt, University of Minnesota, University of Michigan, Clemson, University of Florida and Stanford University. About 80 percent of our majors choose to pursue advanced degrees, and about half of our graduates who pursue graduate study do so in engineering. Almost without exception, our graduates obtain full funding for their graduate study.

Scan to apply today!

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