

Astronomy & Astrophysics Major

Chair: Edward L. Fitzpatrick, Ph.D.

Office Location: 456A Mendel Science Center

Telephone: (610) 519-4820

[Website](#)

About

The APS Department offers a major in Astronomy & Astrophysics, leading to a Bachelor of Science degree. The major combines rigorous academic preparation with a strong research component, which usually culminates in the presentation of original research results at national astronomical conferences. The program is designed to prepare students for graduate studies in astronomy and related fields. In addition, and due to the strong and balanced Liberal Arts education, the Astronomy & Astrophysics major provides outstanding preparation for careers in science journalism and science education, as well as for essentially any technically based career.

Research facilities utilized by staff and students in the APS Department include a high-speed computing facility and a suite of computer-controlled telescopes located on the roof of Mendel Science Center. In addition, the Department is a member of the Robotically Controlled Telescope consortium, which operates a 1.3 meter telescope located at Kitt Peak National Observatory. Students also have access, via faculty research programs, to state-of-the-art astronomical data from NASA-supported facilities such as the Hubble Space Telescope and the Spitzer Space Telescope, and a variety of national and international ground-based facilities.

Program: [Astrophysics and Planetary Science](#)

Type: Bachelor of Science

MAJOR (86 credits)

The major consists of 86 credits, including courses in astronomy, physics, mathematics, and computer science. Students completing the major will also qualify for a minor in physics.

Required Major Courses

Item #	Title	Credits
AST 2120	Sun and Stars	3
AST 2121	Solar System Astronomy	3
AST 2122	Understanding Our Universe	3
AST 2123	Astrodynamics:Kepler & Beyond	3
AST 2133	Observational Lab I	2
AST 2134	Observational Lab II	2
AST 3141	Galactic Astronomy	3
AST 3142	Intro to Astrophysics	3
AST 3143	Astrobiology, Planets, & Life	3
AST 3148	The Prncpl of Scientific Model	3
AST 4121	Undergrad Research I	3
AST 4122	Undergrad Research II	3
CSC 4630	Software Dev and Systems	3
MAT 1500	Calculus I	4
MAT 1505	Calculus II	4
MAT 2500	Calculus III	4
MAT 2705	Diff Equation with Linear Alg	4
PHY 2410	University Phy:Mechanics	3
PHY 2411	Lab: Mechanics	1
PHY 2412	Univ Physics:Elec & Mag	3
PHY 2413	Lab:Elec & Magnetism	1
PHY 2414	Univ Physics: Thermo	3
PHY 2415	Lab: Thermodynamics	1
PHY 2416	Modern Physics	3
PHY 2417	Lab:Modern Physics	1
PHY 2601	Computational Phy Lab I	1
PHY 2603	Computational Phy Lab II	1
PHY 4100	Mechanics I	3
PHY 4200	Mathematical Physics I	3
	Upper-Level Physics Elective	9

Category Descriptions

Upper-Level Physics Elective

Credits: 9

Select 3 Classes of three or more credits in PHY 3000:9999.