

What Can I Do With a Major in **ASTRONOMY**?

Astronomers study the sun, moon, planets, stars, and galaxies to learn about the nature of the universe. Astronomers study the laws that govern astronomical objects, such as stars and planets. They develop instruments and techniques to observe and collect data on stars and planets in the galaxy. They investigate the evolution and structure of these objects. They analyze data gathered by observatories and satellites.

Typical Coursework

Stellar Astrophysics
The Interstellar Medium
Galaxies and Cosmology
Solar System Astronomy
Radio Astronomy Lab
Physics with Calculus
Modern Physics
Mechanics
Electromagnetic Fields

Thermal Physics
Plasma Physics
Atomic and Quantum Physics
Electromagnetic Fields and Optics
Calculus
Ordinary Differential Equations
Applied Analysis
General Chemistry
Techniques of Modern Observational Astrophysics

Related Major Skills

Instrumentation
Remote Sensing
Spectral Observation
Computer Applications
Define Research Problems
Summarize research findings
Measure distances/relationships
See Relationships among Factors

Extensive Research
Data Analysis
Develop Research Models
Establish Hypotheses
Perform Calculations
Utilize Math Formulas
Develop & write research proposals
Mathematical modeling

Evaluate Ideas
Maintain Records
Observe Data
Use Instruments
Data Collection

Related Occupations

Astronomer
Professor
Geophysicist
Researcher
Mathematician
Astronaut
Planetarium Director

Science Teacher
Geologist
Laboratory Technician
Physicist
Computer Programmer
Science Journalist
Observatory Manager

Who Hires for this Occupation?

- Colleges and universities
- Governmental organizations and labs such as National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL)
- National observatories such as the National Astronomy & Ionosphere Center (Arecibo Observatory), National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO) and the Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI)
- Business or private industry
- Planetariums and science museums

Area Colleges & Universities with a major in Astronomy

University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

University of Wisconsin-Madison

University of Iowa

Area Colleges & Universities with a major in Physics specializing in Astronomy

Minnesota State University, Moorhead

University of North Dakota

Professional Association Links

American Astronomical Society, <http://www.aas.org>

American Institute of Physics, <http://www.aip.org>

Roll mouse over "Physics Resources" from top menu bar. Select "Physics Education."

For More Information

Contact ARCC Career Counseling: (763) 433-1240 (CR campus), (763) 433-1840 (Cambridge campus) or stop by the campus Information Desk

Information adapted from: Minnesota Career Information System <https://mncis.intocareers.org>, and the Career Center at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington <http://uncw.edu/career/WhatCanIDoWithaMajorIn.html>